No. 35, Vol. IX.] [JULY, 1884.

THE

RAGGED SCHOOL UNION

Quarterly Record.

LONDON:

KENT & CO., PATERNOSTER ROW,

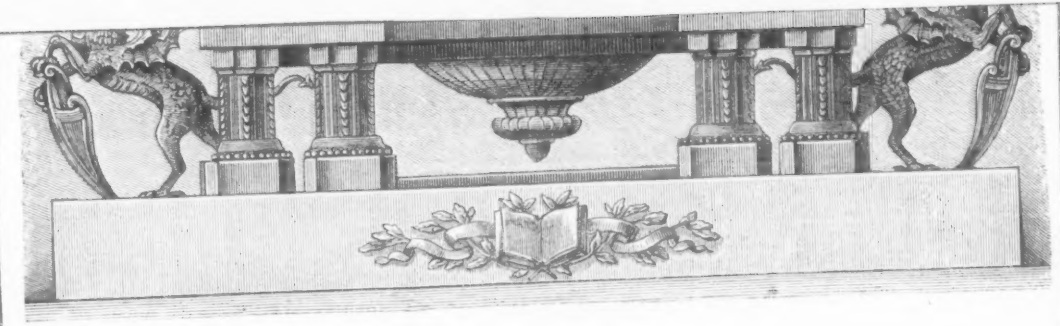
AND ALL BOOKSELLERS.

All Communications to be addressed to the Editor, Exeter Hall, London.

Orders for Advertisements to be sent to R. K. Burt & Co., Fetter Lane.

PRICE TWOPENCE.

A ready and well-known pen in the *Rock* proceeds thus in its vivid way: "On these occasions the large hall is gaily decorated with the banners peculiar to each of the sixty-two schools whose scholars this year have successfully competed for prizes. Each banner bears a distinctive device. But among the others to-night the eye is here and there attracted by 'a banner with a strange device.' These foreigners—and foreigners they are in very deed—have each a glaring ground colour, and most of them are emblazoned with representations of fabulous monsters, which bear some exaggerated lobsters and lizards; while the accompanying hieroglyphics convey to the uninitiated a confused notion of gridirons and Jew's-harps in a state of anarchy. The inscriptions are evidently Chinese. As the word comes to mind, curiosity idly gives way to profound admiration. Chinese suggests Gordon, and at once the significance of these flags flashes into the memory. These trophies are indeed, and at once, the emblems of Gordon's prowess and piety. These are the flags which the humble-minded hero presented to his 'kings,' the Ragged School children of Gravesend. 'God bless the Colonel!' was the prayer of the 'kings;' and probably finds many an echo to-night at this meeting in the hearts of those who are thus kindly reminded of his piety and his peril. Those who have read the story of Chinese Gordon—and who has not?—will not need to be reminded that these flags were taken by Gordon from the Tai-ping rebels, whom Gordon so gallantly suppressed. The mention of the General's name evoked round upon round of spontaneous cheering; and when that had subsided, the boys followed it up with a lusty three times three, while the girls wildly waved their handkerchiefs and song-books. These young people are for the most part naturally quick-witted and efficiently taught; and this fact, combined with the still more important fact of the careful moral and industrial training bestowed upon them, accounts for the satisfaction which they give to their employers. In these circumstances it is not difficult to understand how it is that many of them adorn most respectable walks in life. Some ragged scholars have achieved not only great success as men of business, but have also attained to considerable civic or municipal dignity. In both the army and navy, many whilom Ragged



GOLD CASKET PRESENTED TO EARL SHAFTESBURY.

See page 137.

Presented with the Freedom of the City
by the Corporation of London.
To the
Right Honorable the Earl of Beaconsfield K.G. D.C.L.
26th FEBRUARY
1884

Presented with the Freedom of the City
by the Corporation of London.
To the
Right Honorable the Earl of Shaftesbury K.G.D.C.L.
28th February
1884

GOLD CASKET PRESENTED TO EARL SHAFTESBURY. *See page* 137.

School boys are numbered among the smartest non-commissioned officers. Some young soldiers are present to-night, to participate in the distribution of the prizes which are this year awarded to no less than seven hundred and fifty-two old Ragged School scholars who have rendered a satisfactory account of their conduct and calling. The ladies and gentlemen deputed to receive the prizes, who form the long triumphal procession, are cheered without stint or stoppage. Each one receives a sort of double volley: they are cheered on behalf of their prize-winning scholars, and they are cheered in their own proper persons for their self-denying zeal as volunteers in the noble volunteer army of Ragged School teachers. Of the happy recipients, three hundred and eighty-four are young men, and the maidens number three hundred and sixty-eight. Over 18,000 young persons have been so rewarded."

The Report showed an increase of nine institutions, and a considerable increase in the number of operations in connection with those of long standing. Vitality was specially evinced in the growth of Sunday work. During the year both teachers and taught have multiplied. The courage shown by some of the oldest institutions in enlarging and rebuilding their premises had sprung from a belief in the need of the work, and from a resolution in the strength of God not to flinch from its prosecution. Besides the maintenance and extension of Christian work, other agencies, whose business it is to retain a hold on the young after school age, had greatly increased. These were Reading Rooms, Youths' Institutes, Industrial Classes, Musical Evenings and Magic Lantern Entertainments, Chess, Swimming, and Cricket Clubs. Such institutions cover the year, they provide recreation for winter and summer; and pleasing instances are given of the spiritual good growing out of the friendly intercourse between teacher and scholar in the intervals of play. The body has not been lost sight of, for provision is made where needed to supply children with food and clothing, to give them a day's outing, *and, in the case of the feeble ones, to provide a long stay in the country.* These, and a host of others, are a proof of a renewal of youth, of a wise intelligence, the result of an enlarged experience, so adapting its agencies as to meet not only the permanent wants of the poor, but also to meet any of the altered circumstances which are inevitable over a long term of years.

The right of being of Ragged Schools consists not so much in their efficiency in the work of elementary education as in their unquestionable utility as centres of Christian benevolence, and that they are so let the following instance, one of many others, suffice.

The operations springing from this centre are Sunday Schools (afternoon and evening), Juvenile Sabbath Union, Infant Day Schools, Week Evening Schools, Week Evening Bible Class for elder scholars, Singing Class, Lectures and Entertainments, Lending Library, Free Breakfasts (daily), Poor Children's Dinners (twice a week during winter), Clothing, Blanket, and Coal Clubs, Penny Bank, Mothers' Meeting, Ladies' Dorcas Society, Visiting Relief Association, City Missionary's Meeting, and Sunday Evening Services for adults.

The excellent address to the old scholars and the speeches are given elsewhere.

The area to which the money grants of the Union are extended is of some fifty miles in diameter, but the area of intercourse and sympathy is widening year by year, and promises to become co-extensive with the United Kingdom. The demands for pecuniary help are considerably on the increase. A number of the schools have run out their leases and require rebuilding; others have fallen into a state of serious dilapidation, while some require alterations to meet the sanitary demands of the time, and nearly all need the provision of convenient class-rooms.

To reinstate, enlarge, and improve old Institutions, and to provide suitable buildings for new and much-needed work in crowded metropolitan or outlying centres, a special fund, entitled "The Shaftesbury Testimonial Fund," is being raised (as stated on page 129). We make an appeal for this fund in the confidence that we shall meet with a hearty response.

"THESE FORTY YEARS."

Abstract of the Report for 1884.

The parable of "the grain of mustard seed" has been wonderfully exemplified in the history of the Ragged School Union. When the four friends representing some tentative efforts on behalf of the outcast poor met in council on April 11th, 1844, and founded the Society, they little dreamt that the seed then sown in faith and prayer would shoot forth great branches and become the sturdy tree of to-day. "It is the Lord's doing, and it is marvellous in our eyes."

The simple inception of a Sunday Evening School for gutter children has led to the creation of a catalogue of good works, some of which have assumed national importance and have been imitated in all directions. As to results, it is not too much to say that hundreds of thousands of poor children we know have been blessed the world over by Ragged Schools both for time and eternity. A plan was adopted thirty years ago of rewarding those boys and girls who, profiting by the gracious and instructive influences of the schools, went forth to win their bread by honest labour. All who could bring a twelvemonth's good character, with a certificate of Sunday School attendance, have received an illuminated card and a money or book prize; 18,452 of these elder scholars have been so rewarded. Some time since a careful computation was made of the number of children rescued from the streets and assisted to become decent and useful citizens, and it was calculated that between 300,000 and 400,000 were thus reclaimed.

The present signs of awakened interest in the condition of the poor should be a source of thankful satisfaction to Ragged School teachers.

The year just closed has been one of steady, persevering effort, but devoid of any novel characteristics.

Finance.

Your Committee, in rendering an account of their stewardship, would refer first to the finances. The total receipts for the year in the form of contributions were £3,872 14s. 2d., to which must be added £1,570 8s. 1d. from legacies, and £599 8s. 10d. for specific purposes, bringing the total sum with which the Committee have been entrusted to £6,092 11s. 1d. The new financial year began with a small balance of £265 18s. 9d. for the general fund, the whole of which has since been voted away as grants to schools.

The financial condition of the Society has given much concern. An overdrawn account at the bankers' last autumn led the Committee to resolve to make their pecuniary wants widely known. After prayerful

deliberation, it was decided to issue an appeal, with the double object of augmenting the regular income to a degree adequate to the need, and to meet some urgent claims for rebuilding. The result so far has fallen short of the estimated amount, and the Committee would again emphasise their pecuniary wants, which must be met if the work is to be sustained and extended.

Buildings.

Whatever errors Ragged School workers may have committed, they cannot be charged with lavish expenditure in buildings. In some instances, freeholds were secured and substantial buildings subsequently erected, but for the most part the tenancy has been limited and precarious. During the past year it has been found necessary to consider seriously the desirability of rebuilding some of the schools. Well Street, Hackney (now Lyme Grove), and Radnor Street have done so. Fox Court, Giffin Street, and Victory Place are raising the necessary funds for a similar purpose; Stratford, Butler's Place, and Nelson Street have been new floored, or otherwise thoroughly repaired; Shadwell and Harrow Green have adapted buildings for institute and school purposes; Old Castle Street, Harley Hall, and Agar Town have removed into larger and more commodious premises; Stephen the Yeoman is about providing additional accommodation for its constantly increasing numbers, and the Lambeth Ragged Schools are at length to be made sound and clean; the delay has been through the tardiness of the Charity Commission. Other schools and missions have been affiliated, bringing the total number to 180 distinct buildings and institutions now under the fostering care of the parent Union.

Teachers.

The teachers' roll now musters 3,278. To this voluntary army of earnest, devoted workers should be added 193 paid teachers and monitors.

Amongst the

Religious Agencies

the most prominent place must be assigned to the Sunday Ragged School. It is gratifying to record that these increasingly important institutions show augmented numbers, 5,244 being registered for the morning, 20,056 for the afternoon, and 19,217 for the evening. Taking into account the irregularity of the scholars, we may fairly assume that over 50,000 of the poorest children of our streets come under Scriptural instruction Sabbath by Sabbath. Not less helpful and important for the elder scholars are the 73 Bible Classes, with 3,074 in attendance. These young disciples are in many schools

formed into Christian Bands. The number reported to have become communicants during the year is 406.

The spiritual basis of the Ragged School system may be found in the arrangements for Prayer Meetings, both for teachers and scholars.

It is not generally known that the Ragged School embraces a large amount of adult work. Gospel Services are recorded by 90 schools, in addition to Ragged Churches; the average attendance has been 8,673. The Sunday Morning Breakfasts for the destitute must be added to this goodly catalogue of seed-sowing, for whilst the body is fed the subsequent Gospel Service is regarded as of primary importance. Mothers' Meetings have 5,374 in attendance.

Educational.

The Day Ragged Schools, where they are still maintained, are found continuing their useful and necessary work. There are 35 Day Schools, with a total attendance of 4,252. There have been open 68 Night Schools, giving in all 4,696 scholars in average attendance.

Some praiseworthy efforts are made to gain an influence over the factory girls at the East End, and with considerable success.

Closely allied to the Night Schools are the Industrial Classes, which exhibit commendable activity and usefulness, conducted as they are in 37 schools. There are 7 for boys, with 237 under instruction in various departments of industry, embracing carpentering, drawing, mat-making, boot-repairing, printing, wood-chopping, &c. There are 30 for girls, with 1,461 taught sewing, mending, knitting, cutting-out, and woolwork. Some of the results of all this practical teaching are best seen at the exhibition held in many of the schools once a year with growing interest and pleasure. The Cookery Classes are found to meet a want, and are conducted successfully at Ingram Place, Holloway, Gravesend, and other places.

The statistics of the 9 Shoeblack Brigades for the year show that 369 boys have found useful scope for their energies in boot-blacking, under good influences, and the united earnings for the year were £11,753 6s. 6d.

Youths' Institutes, under different forms and titles, are gradually winning their way into favour as useful adjuncts to the school or mission. To have a sort of club, where innocent recreation is combined with instructive appliances and refreshments, has proved largely successful in interesting senior boys and girls. The well-lighted Reading Room, the attractive Library, the Tool Chest, the Draught and Chess Boards, the Cricket Bat, the Gymnasium, as well as the Writing, Drawing, and Bible Classes, have undoubted attrac-

tions for youth when sympathetically superintended. There are 33 Institutes and Recreation Classes, with 1,095 members.

Then follows a long list of

BENEVOLENT OPERATIONS.

Infant Nurseries and Crêches; Maternity Societies; Dorcas Meetings; Soup Kitchens; Christmas Dinners; Robin Dinners. Temperance and thrift, like twin sisters, have always been united in the work of the Ragged School: Bands of Hope; Temperance and Blue Ribbon Societies; Good Templar Lodges; Penny Bank, with its 16,877 depositors, and its receipts for the year of £9,699 19s. 8½d., and a remaining balance at Christmas last of £2,184 11s. 10½d.; Clothing Clubs; Boot and Shoe Clubs; Loan Clubs.

Mention should be made of the constant watchfulness and care shown in starting the young people in life. Thousands now in comfortable positions owe their first step on the social ladder to the kind intervention of teachers.

Recognising the stimulus to well-doing which springs from reward, the Committee have for thirty years followed a plan, in conjunction with the local schools, of giving prizes for at least twelve months' faithful service. 799 candidates have made application this year for these prizes. Out of this number 752 were found to have fully complied with all the conditions; 684 were boys, 368 were girls, and they meet to-night to receive from the President the valued testimony of their perseverance and integrity. Through the renewed kindness of the Religious Tract Society, the Committee are enabled to give a Teacher's Bible, or a volume of the *Boy's Own Annual* and the *Girl's Own Annual*, and all the prize-takers receive an illuminated certificate in addition, again designed by Mr. Charles Montague.

The number of scholars sent to situations during the year is put down at 667, but may be safely taken at a much higher figure.

The question of recreation has not been overlooked. Various methods are adopted to provide innocent recreation with the view to retain within the pale of salutary influences those who have entered on the battle of life. Libraries attached to the schools possess 23,834 volumes. Large numbers of periodicals are purchased for lending to the scholars and their parents, and quantities of illustrated papers and tracts are largely circulated. The sale of pure literature amongst the scholars forms a special feature amongst the schools. The magic-lanterns have been in constant requisition, and about 25,000 persons have been gratified by these inexpensive appliances in 114 schools. Concerts; Services of Song; Fife and Drum Bands; Cricketing; Swimming Baths; and the Gymnasium.

The day in the country still maintains its popularity, notwithstanding its admitted drawbacks, and over 3,000 were taken out last summer. After all, this rush out and home again is only an apology for a more lengthened and profitable stay in the country, and the Committee will not consider their arrangements complete until they are able to give this larger benefit to some of the enfeebled children of some of the local schools. The attempt made last year to get a holiday house was not successful, but the scheme has not been abandoned.

The Committee record with gratitude the continued kindness of Miss Courtauld, who was able to give forty-two children the benefit of a fortnight's holiday. Some of the larger schools are securing these country homes, or making such temporary arrangements in cottages, &c., as enable them to give the needed holiday to the enfeebled children. Lady Ashburton's generous gift to George Yard was noticed in the October number of 1883. The Latymer Road Mission has a similar home at Broadwater, Worthing; and the scheme is followed with the Morton Road Mission, Costers' Mission, the Jurston Street School, Kingsland School, the King Edward School, &c.

The pressure upon the resources of the parent Union necessitated the restriction of its area of operation. In 1860 this boundary line was extended to include institutions within twenty-five miles around London; and last year, acceding to the wishes of many provincial friends attending the conference, it was decided by the Committee to dispense with the limitation altogether, and to embrace, where desired, Ragged Schools and Missions in all parts of the United Kingdom. It is hoped this communication with the provincial friends and efforts will strengthen the bond of sympathy and bring into closer union all the workers amongst the very poor of our land.

The kindly notices of the newspaper press are gratefully acknowledged; also "Pity for the Perishing," by Mr. G. Holden Pike. Some faithful and genial sketches of Ragged School work appear in "The Harvest of the City," by "Pearl Fisher." To these helpful means of publicity must be added the RAGGED SCHOOL UNION QUARTERLY RECORD.

The Committee would conclude by an earnest plea for the continued co-operation of the workers, and for the extended liberality of the benevolent.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE FORTIETH ANNUAL MEETING OF THE RAGGED SCHOOL UNION,

HELD AT EXETER HALL, MAY 12*th*, 1884.

THE RIGHT HON. THE EARL OF SHAFTESBURY, K.G., PRESIDED.

THE noble President was supported by the Lady Mayoress and Miss Fowler, Lord Leigh, and the Rev. Canon Cadman.

After the singing of "Glory to God on high," and prayer by the Rev. William Tyler, the chairman called upon

Mr. JOHN KIRK, who read an abstract of the Report of the Committee for the past year (see page 105), prefacing his reading with the announcement, which awakened loud responsive applause:—

"The flags that adorn our walls, with their strange devices, were given by General Gordon to the Gravesend School when he was a teacher in that Ragged School. Shall not our prayers go up to God on behalf of that good man, now in danger in the Soudan? Let us ask that he may be spared and brought back to his own land again."

An interesting interlude now followed in the presentation of the 752 prizes to the boys and girls of the following schools:—

Amicable Row, 6; Brewer's Court, 4; Brunswick Street, 9; Butler's Place, 3; Camden Town, 5; Castle Lane, 4; Chequer Alley, 11; Copperfield Road, 42; Croydon, 2; Dartford, 7; Deptford, 17; Dove Row, 16; East Greenwich, 3; Ernest Street, 4; Exeter Buildings, 6; Emmott Street, 4; Field Lane, 29; Fox Court, 9; George Yard, 45; Gravesend, 6; Gray's Yard, 14; Grotto Passage, 2; Harrow Street, 6; Hatfield Street, 14; Henry Street, 9; Hope Street, 8; Horseferry Road, 7; Johnson's Court, 6; John Street, Shacklewell, 5; Jurston Street, 10; Kentish Town, 8; King Edward, 63; Lamb and Flag, 66; Lambeth, 19; Lansdowne Place, 6; Limehouse, 3; Little Saffron Hill, 3; Lower Park Road, 4; Marigold Place, 17; Milton's Yard, 9; Morton Road, 23; Nelson Street, 7; New Tothill Street, 15; Ogle Mews, 32; One Tun, 7; Parker Street, 10; Poplar, 2; Ratcliff, 1; Richmond Street, 9; Robert Street, 7; Rosemary Hall, 30; Rufford's Row, 9; Salmon's Lane, 7; St. James's Place, 7; Somers Town, 6; Three Colt Street, 3; Tottenham Road, 8; Tower Street, 7; Victory Place, 28; West Greenwich, 18; Wilkes Street, 1; Windsor, 4. Total, 752.

Rev. W. R. MOWLL, M.A., said: My Lord Shaftesbury, mothers, fathers, and friends of the Ragged School Union, I am glad, as a young man, to have the opportunity of saying one or two words, first of all, to you. In the first place, it has been my privilege to be a Ragged School teacher for many years, and no one who has not undertaken such work has any idea of the trial it is to one's patience and faith, although in the end it is its own best reward. As I look back now some few years—I was twelve years old when I began to teach, and I have just turned thirty-one, so I can look back on a few years of Ragged School work—but

as I do look back I remember many lads who have turned out well and a credit to us. Only the other day a smart fellow came up to me in the street and made a salute I taught my boys to make years ago. I said, "You have the advantage of me." "Ah, but I know you," he said, "and your father too, and but for you two I'd have been a street arab to-day: you educated me in your Ragged School." That poor outcast lad is now a sergeant in the City Police.

One instance more from our Ragged School to show you how the work tries patience. Shortly after we opened our school there was no gas, and we stuck sockets right round the wall and had candles in them. Well, one night about 120 rough lads came in. It was in a seaport town, I may tell you. None of us discovered what their little game was. I believe they were pretty quiet during the first quarter of an hour, when the Word of God was read, but when that was over, at a given signal—I think it was a low whistle—each boy rose. There was a general rush, and they succeeded in blowing out every tallow candle in the room save one. That my father, who was a very tall man, laid hold of and held up high, so that they could not get at it. They did not stop there. A moment afterwards, at another given signal, they unbuttoned the white gabardines they wore, and nearly every lad had managed to smuggle in a little terrier. They let the dogs loose, and then the teachers could stand it no longer. Some jumped on the forms, some over the forms, and some to the doors, which some lads were holding. They shouted themselves hoarse, and it was nearly half an hour before order was restored, but it was at length, and we expelled the leaders. The most of them came back the next night, but we took care the candles were out of their reach, and that no terriers were under their gabardines. In a very short time we had that school, and even these lads, completely under control.

Now there is an idea abroad that Ragged Schools have had their day. I have felt strongly during the last few years that their best days are to come. Even if that town I speak of, with only twenty-five thousand inhabitants, and thought to be so plentifully provided with schools that we have kept out the School Board, even there we found need for a Ragged School and plenty of work for it. There are those of us who know the value of these schools and are determined to keep them going on. Mothers and fathers, stick to the teachers of the Ragged Schools; it is absolutely necessary these neglected children should have the moral and religious instruction these schools give.

Now I turn right about face and speak to the children.

Children, how many of you know the deaf and dumb alphabet? (Many hands held up.) Look at my fingers and spell the words. Read this. (Spells on fingers.)

Aim high; that is, be the best Christian. You children have heard again and again the Gospel of Jesus Christ, but it is fresh to me and to you every day we live. Teachers, teach your children to be real Christians, not hypocrites or humbugs, but right true followers of the Lord Jesus Christ. Aim high. Do the

very best you can for yourself in this life; seek to grow up, you boys, smart men, and you girls industrious women. Always aim high, have the highest standard before you, and that is the standard set up by the Lord Jesus Christ: "Whatsoever ye do, do it heartily unto the Lord, and not unto men."

Attention. Spell again, *Fight shy.* Aim high, fight shy. Now I believe, in the use of boxing gloves, it's a grand thing when a man can box well. Fight shy in the highest sense of sin, self, and Satan. The greatest enemy we all have is ourselves; look out for self, fight shy of self. I was once at a certain house, and I went into a certain room and heard a boy talking to himself; and I looked through the crack and saw a boy with his coat buttoned tight, and his handkerchief in his pocket sticking out, and he was looking in the glass and saying, "I shall be good looking when I grow up." I laughed at him, and he turned round in a fearful temper and didn't forgive me for a long time to come. Fight shy of self and sin and never forget to serve your Master, Jesus Christ.

Now, look again! *Keep nigh.* Aim high, fight shy, keep nigh to the Lord Jesus Christ. Ever trust Him. Honour the Lord's day. I hope you all keep that day holy, it is the grandest day of the seven if you keep it right. Remember this; if you do not honour it, God will never bless you; His blessing rests upon none who dishonour His day. Keep nigh, but not only on Sundays, but on week days too. Keep nigh to the Bible, the Word of God. I always keep my Bible under my pillow, and when I wake in the morning the first thing is a few verses from the Book. Children, love your Bibles, treasure them, read them, remember what you read, and obey them. We have in our Ragged School, Bibles that have been in use twenty-five years, and you hardly see a mark on them; the children have learned to love and reverence the Bible.

Now, again, look! *Watch and try.* Aim high, fight shy, keep nigh, watch and try. Remember that verse in Mark xii. 24, about prayer, "Whatsoever things ye desire when ye pray."

Now one story: I was once asked by a poor servant girl to go and see her father, who was an out-and-out depraved and drunken man, and he would not allow any one to enter his room. However, I went and knocked at the door and asked if Mr. So-and-so was there? "Yes," said the woman, "he is, but he won't see any one." "Tell him I have come to see him." The landlady went upstairs and came back, saying he would not see me. "Tell him a gentleman has come to see him about some property left him." She went, but still he wouldn't see me. I said, "Let me past, and I'll try him." I went upstairs and knocked at the door. "Well, who's there?" "I am a gentleman who has looked into another gentleman's will, and find he has left you some property." "Come in, sir." It was very wonderful to see how he changed his tone in a moment. When I entered he was in bed, and I saw a face the like of which I have never seen since; and the room was fearful—it had not been cleaned for years. He had been drinking the night before, and was sleeping off

his debauch; he looked a shocking sight.

I said, "I am a stranger to you." "Yes, you are." "I have seen your name in a will, and want you to take possession; but I'll go out of the room till you get up and dress." I went out, and in less than two minutes he shouted, "Come in, I'm ready." "Well," I said "you have been left some valuable property, but before I tell you of it I want to know if you will take possession.' "I'd be a fool if I didn't." "Of course you would be." Well, I told all about the bright and beautiful mansions, where he could have everything he could desire. But he kept on bothering me—"Where is it?" "But will you give me your word you'll take possession?" "Yes," he said, "I will." "You want to know where it is—'In my Father's house are many mansions, if it were not so I would have told you; I go to prepare a place for you.'" "Go out of my room, sir; I have heard that before. It ain't for me." "But it is for you. What is your name if it is not 'Whosoever'? and this is for 'Whosoever.' Jesus died for 'Whosoever;' He died for you." The old man gradually quieted down, and actually allowed me to pray with him, and he knelt with me. At last I left him, and as I stood talking with the landlady he passed, and said, "Good afternoon, sir; I won't forget about the mansions." By-and-by that old man fell ill, and entered a London hospital, where he was spoken to by many visitors, and while lying there was led to the full light of the Gospel, and sustained for many months a bright testimony to the power of Divine grace. At the age of seventy-five he died in peace, and passed, I believe, to be with Christ. His last wish was to see me. I was absent from town, but I look forward to meeting him in the presence of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. God bless you, children, and may all of you be there too.

The children sang "The Drums and Fifes," "My Grandad's Song," and "While the days are going by," and the collection was made, after which—

The Rev. J. R. Wood, of Holloway, said: I have much pleasure in responding to your lordship's call and moving the following resolution:—

"That this meeting expresses its earnest conviction of the need of maintaining and extending Ragged Schools, and kindred centres of Christian benevolence, amongst the destitute poor of our land, and heartily commends the Ragged School Union to the increased liberality of the charitable public."

That is a resolution which I move with very great pleasure, and not merely as a matter of form. I never stood on this platform to do anything with greater zest than I now feel in moving, on behalf of the Ragged School Union, this resolution. It seems to me when I think of the work, and the results achieved by the work of this Ragged School Union, and when I think that it does not stand alone in the great field of Christian enterprise, but that the Sunday School Union, the Band of Hope Union, and other societies and unions are working side by side with and in perfect harmony with this Union, it seems to me that we may well rejoice in the full faith that the spring time of the world is coming at last; at least

there is at length breaking forth the promise and beauty of better things to come. Surely, surely, when we think of all that is being done in the name of Christ, and for the kingdom of Christ, in this dispensation, we may well feel that

> "The world rolls glory's radiant way,
> And brightens with her sorrows."

And it must be one of the high satisfactions and privileges of a long life such as yours—and may God prolong it many years to come ("Amen" and applause)—it must, I say, be one of the privileges and satisfactions of such a long life that you are able to look back and see how much God is doing by means of the great social reforms and movements in which you have always taken so prominent a part.

And now I feel that to-night I commend this resolution to no one who is not favourably impressed by what he has seen and heard. I regard the resolution as already half carried. The children themselves, with sweet singing and beaming faces, have already carried it; for the voices we have listened to this night, and the happy faces we have looked upon, are surely enough to carry it by acclamation.

But when for a few moments we turn to the work being done among the destitute and poor, among the children of the destitute and poor, one feels that *we are working along the lines of the best principles and traditions of our Christian faith*, and on that ground I commend and support the work of the Union. Suppose any intelligent heathen came to London from India or China, and one wished to bring him into contact with the very genius of our faith, with the mind and spirit of the Lord Jesus Christ, where, I ask, would you take him? I am not sure that I would take him to our places of business, he might see that which did not represent righteousness. Nor am I quite sure I should take him, in the first instance at least, to some of our splendid ecclesiastical edifices set apart for Christian worship. But I should like to take him to some of the Ragged Schools represented here; I should like him to see how Christian men and Christian women, through love to Christ, whom they serve, and through love to souls, devote themselves, almost unnoticed and unknown, to this laborious toil. I should like him to see these Christian people among the poor, the ignorant, the unwashed, the unclad, the neglected, the friendless, and the homeless; to see them become friends to the friendless, and offering shelter to the houseless. And then, having shown him work of this sort, I should direct his attention to the Master's words in Mark x. 14, "Suffer the little children to come unto Me, and forbid them not, for of such is the kingdom of heaven." Then, I would ask, Is there not a close correspondence between the spirit and words of the Master and the work of Ragged Schools?

There is a beautiful story of a Roman bishop who in the early days of persecution fell a martyr at Rome. An exaggerated idea had got abroad about the church treasures, and when the bishop was cited before the Roman consul, he was asked about these church treasures. "Yes," said he, "it is true the church has treasures, but they are large and weighty, and unless you give me three days I cannot bring

them together." He was granted three days, and at the expiration of them the magistrate appeared, expecting to behold the treasures. He found the bishop had gathered together a large number of widows and destitute orphans, who were the care of the church. Pointing to them he said, "Here are our church's treasures, and now you are welcome to them." So we point to these 750 children as representative of the 50,000 outside who are under the care of your teachers in Sunday and week-day schools, and we say, "These are the church's treasures, and we trust one day to see them shine as jewels in the Redeemer's crown." I believe in doing this work: in caring for the children of the poor and untutored we are moving along the best lines of the church's history.

But, further, I move this resolution pledging this meeting to support the Union upon the ground that *this Union is meeting the deepest needs of this age.* I know there are benevolent people, and there may be some in this meeting, who say, "But we have so many calls." Well, all the better for you if you have the means to meet them. And, moreover, I have often found that the people who are great grumblers are the people who give very little, while those who are the best givers to the work say but little about the "many calls." There are many calls upon the benevolent, but I point behind me to-night, and I dare say to the Christian friends here, Make room for these, make room for the work of this Union, for in so helping you are meeting one of the greatest needs, one of the deepest needs, of our time.

Just think, for example, of the wretchedness, misery, and crime to which many of these little ones were born, and of the circumstances in which they first drew their breath, victims of other's vices and sufferers for other's sins; and then listen to their beautiful voices singing these sweet songs, and let us pray these children may be spared to become blessings to our city and land. Take them up into your pity, and you will be meeting one of the deepest needs of the time.

It seems to me that the very helplessness of these children is another reason why we should take up this work, and why it should impress itself upon our liberality and regard. Remember, these little ones cannot extricate themselves from the places and circumstances in which they find themselves. They have surely a right to look to the strong arm of Christian faith, and the strong arm of Christian love and sympathy, to lift them up to a higher level, and to help them to do the work of men and women in God's world and in Christ's name.

Well, we have heard it alleged that the School Board is now sufficient to cover the ground, and that the work of this Union is over. I am not sure that this audience is aware of the fact, but Mr. W. E. Forster, whose name is so honourably connected with the first Education Act, said the other day, "The London School Board still leaves 27 per cent. of the children unprovided for"—27 per cent. of our London school children for whom there are no school places. Is there not room, my lord, for all the work this Union can do? It is indeed wanted.

One other reason why this great

meeting should pledge itself to support this Union is that the School Board cannot possibly do the work of the Ragged School Union. It is not upon this platform anything should be said against the work of the London School Board; it is doing its own work, and doing it well, but it cannot possibly attempt the work attempted by this Ragged School Union. Think of the industrial aspects of the work, especially such work as Savings Banks, Industrial Classes, Clothing Clubs, &c.; and think, too, of the evangelistic and religious character of the work revealed in the Report. We think that in these facts we have good reason for once more putting our shoulders to the wheel, and resolving to support largely and liberally the operations of this Union.

Then it may be alleged that the churches of Christ in this great city cover the ground and thereby render it unnecessary there should be a central Union like this to carry forward this work. I should like to observe that it is just where the need for such work is greatest that our churches, that all churches are becoming feebler by reason of the continual outward set of the better-to-do population from crowded centres to the suburbs. It is as much as churches and chapels in poor and crowded districts can do to maintain their own organisations, and even these insufficiently cover the ground. And this process must go on. It seems to me that it is of the greatest possible importance there should be a large Central Society like this that can gather together contributions from those who live outside the immediate range of need, and also that it should be able to call back workers from the suburbs to aid in carrying on the work in the city. The operation of Sunday and other schools in the poorer parts requires helpers from a distance, and these may be found more easily by means of this Union.

I commend this resolution to the meeting on the grounds I have named. I believe there is a great future before the Union. Till the last child has been gathered in, till the last helpless and homeless one has found shelter and defence, this blessed Union will go on. When the last case of ignorance, destitution, and neglect shall have been met and dealt with, then, and not till then, our successors may close the books of the Society and may come here and hold a great jubilee meeting, for "the Lord God Omnipotent shall then fully reign."

Lord LEIGH said: When I came here this evening I had not the slightest intention of opening my mouth; I came to listen, not to speak. I came, having received a notice that Lord Shaftesbury was to speak to-night; that nobleman who for forty years has been president of this Union, and whose name is known throughout the world for his philanthropy, and especially as a friend during that long period of years of poor men and women and neglected children. I can only congratulate the noble lord upon having lived to see so great a work being carried on through his influence in this great metropolis, and to join with Mr. Wood in hoping that his valuable life may long be spared to see the Union in an even more prosperous state than it is at this moment.

Such was my object in coming here, and when I came I was told that Sir W. McArthur was unable to be present, and I was asked to say a few words in support of the resolution. I really feel it is almost like presumption on my part to stand in the presence of many who know so much more of the work of the Union than I do. I see a friend of mine here whom I have repeatedly met at Gray's Yard Ragged School, a school which is in my own immediate neighbourhood, and in which I have been interested for many years. I am happy to know that some of the children from that school have obtained prizes this year. There is a mistaken notion that antagonism exists between the Board School and the Ragged School. There is no such antagonism, and I trust there never will be. I believe everybody will acknowledge the good work the Board Schools are doing, but every one who knows anything of the matter will allow that Ragged Schools must at the same time be carried on; their operations are necessary to the well-being of the children of the poor. In that admirable report read by Mr. Kirk we have heard that no fewer that 50,000 children are receiving instruction in your Sunday Schools. I know something of the instruction which 250 of these receive, and I say the religious instruction they receive from Sabbath to Sabbath at Gray's Yard School is of the best description. I had the curiosity, being also one of the managers of the Barrett Street Board School, in the immediate neighbourhood of Gray's Yard School, to make inquiries, and I found the two institutions work well together. I asked the children in Barrett Street Board School if any of them belonged to Gray's Yard, and nearly 150 held up their hands to declare that they went to Gray's Yard on the Sabbath day. I believe the one cannot do without the other, and I can only say, "God speed the Ragged Schools and the Board Schools."

The resolution was put to the meeting and carried unanimously. The children then sang "Bells! bells! bells!" after which

The Rev. Canon CADMAN said: My lord, I have been asked to move the second resolution:

"That the blessings and benefits of the more than forty years' work of Ragged Schools and Missions call for earnest thanks to Almighty God, and to the voluntary teachers, through whose self-denying exertions, under Him, these blessed results have been attained; and also to the noble president, the Earl of Shaftesbury, for his devoted labour and solicitude on behalf of the ragged and destitute."

But let me say I have had a communication from the Secretary, directing me to speak about my experience of the past labours of this Society. Now, it so happens that I came to London in the year 1844, the very year in which this Ragged School Union commenced its labours, and I have had some knowledge, more or less, during the forty years that have passed, of what the work, and the difficulties of the work, and the blessing of God upon the work, have been. But I understand it is the wish of the Committee that I should speak rather as a witness, that I should just tell this company what I know and have seen; therefore, at the risk

of bringing forward matters referring to myself, I shall simply take one field of Ragged School labour, and ask you from that one field to judge of other fields, and of all the fields of Ragged School work to which this Union has directed its attention.

I then begin by describing a very large parish, with a population of about 30,000 souls, in which there were good schools; a parish in which some children—boys and girls—were clothed as well as educated. There were also National Schools for boys, girls, and infants which were so well attended and so prosperous that education was carried on, it was thought, as far as need be for all. In the immediate neighbourhood there was the British and Foreign School Society, so that no sectarian object could be adduced as the reason why poor children, such as could be brought within such schools as the British and Foreign and our National Schools, should not be attended to. But there were a great number of children neither in one school nor the other. It was determined that difficulties about getting sites should be overcome, and so it came to pass that a Ragged School was established, which we called Lant Street School. Very soon that school was filled; and I am happy to see in this room to-night one who was the first paid teacher of that Ragged School in Lant Street. Its success was so great that we thought how we could establish other schools. The difficulty was very great, but just at that time I attended a meeting of the Ragged School—of which the noble lord in the chair to-night was the chairman—in a parish adjoining my own. Your lordship will perhaps forgive me for reminding you that after the meeting you called me and asked what my plans were, and if there was any further need in that field. You then offered me a donation for another school which was established in Morton Court. All this in one parish, where it was said there was no occasion for any efforts of this kind.

Of course, there had to be some paid teachers to conduct these schools, day and night, but I am here to testify that it was the unpaid teachers, the voluntary labourers, who contributed most to the success of these schools. One hundred and twenty came forward eventually, men and women with love in their hearts. But I must not anticipate. With your lordship's donation and with some other help Morton Court School was established. It was soon filled with children, and we then went on to White Street, adjoining Kent Street, and there again a school was established for boys, girls, and infants, which was well attended. Then we went on to Brent's Court, and there the same plan was pursued, and the same success attended it. From there we went on to Webber Row, with the same result again. Our voluntary teachers had to labour very much during the day, but they zealously came forward to help, and this not only as teachers, but assisting also by their contributions towards the expenses of the schools.

You will ask me, perhaps, what class of children attended these schools? Well, I may say that in Lant Street we had children from the Mint of the very lowest class. I asked for a description of these

children, and I found they were of such a class that when the teachers asked them where they lived, very often the reply would be, "Teacher, we live nowhere." They had in fact no settled home, and belonged not only to a very low class, but also to a very wandering class of persons. Then I come to Morton Court, and you may judge of the class of children we had there by this instance. We taught them the Ten Commandments, and some of the boys were very clever. One night I was going through the Commandments, and when I came to the eighth, "Thou shalt not steal," I asked about it, and the explanation a smart boy gave was, "Thou shalt not come into the grip of the policeman;" that was his paraphrase of that commandment. In Red Cross Street I was told I should never do anything with the children there, but I discovered that a number of Welsh people were living in that locality; and in God's good providence I got hold of a Welshman as master, and a class was instituted for Welsh children; the result was that we soon had the school filled, not entirely with Welsh-speaking people, but instruction was given in Welsh as well as in English, and to the very class of children we sought to benefit.

Now, do let me impress this upon you—that these teachers assisting so regularly and so patiently were conferring benefits which have been proved to be lasting benefits. Letters have been shown me which have come from children who have been brought up in these schools, and which have been written to their teachers expressing gratitude, and telling how they are reminded of this text and that text of Scripture, and how it all comes to them in places where they now are. Our mode of instruction was that, besides the Scripture lesson, there should be a text of Scripture committed to memory by the whole school every day, a promise or precept learned before the Scripture lesson; and I have had the testimony of teachers as well as scholars that they have reason to thank God for the instruction given by that one text of Scripture. In one of the schools the master objected to it, as he thought it unnecessary; but on his deathbed, which I attended, the last time I ever saw him, he said to me, "If the learning of these texts has done no good to any one else it has done me good, for they are my support as I lie here upon my bed expecting death."

Well, what were the results of our instruction? We could not pass the School Board examination. The teachers possibly could not have obtained the certificate, but I maintain we taught the three R's there; we taught the children to *read* and to *write*, and if you were to see some of the letters we receive now, you would see many very fair specimens of writing. And we taught them to do simple sums in *arithmetic*, sufficient for their station. But more than that, we taught them a fourth R, which I will call *religion*, which, by God's grace, took hold of many. We could point you, in one school, to the names of 106 boys and girls, raised from the very lowest depths in the course of two years. They obtained good situations in after life, and of many of them we heard that they were living respectably. I might multiply instances of this sort, but I do not enlarge. All I want to

show is, that really good and lasting work was done even by teachers who were not certificated. I do not mention this in any spirit of opposition to School Boards, or to certificated teachers, but I want you to see that during the forty years' existence of this Union there has been reading and writing and arithmetic taught, and in addition to this we have had teachers who have drawn the children towards them by their loving hearts, and by the kind interest taken in their condition and in their difficulties.

Take this, then, as but a specimen from one field of labour of many other fields which, during these forty years, have been occupied. I am here to express our earnest thanks to Almighty God for putting the design into the hearts of those who began this work; and to thank the voluntary teachers, as many as remain of them, for the assistance given. Some of them have entered into their rest. And lastly, to thank your lordship for your constant, kind, and self-denying efforts in connection with this great and good work.

Mr. JOHN BERRY said: It is with no ordinary pleasure I follow one whom I remember in early life as the Rev. William Cadman, of St. George's, Borough. I was one of the boys who were in and out the Sunday and Ragged School you spoke of in Lant Street. I responded readily to the Secretary's invitation for two reasons which present themselves to my mind. First, for the encouragement of Ragged School teachers, that they may know that from their classes there spring many who rise to a respectable place in society. Your teachers are not always encouraged as they ought to be. I see again and again—and perhaps it is quite natural—London tradesmen who have started fair with a little initial teaching got in your schools, and who by means of circumstances being favourable have risen to comfortable positions; but no sooner do they thus rise than they take good care to get a nice suburban villa, as far away as possible from the place where they were brought up, and they try to forget, and make others forget, that they were originally city arabs, outcast in London streets. It is, as I have said, a very natural course of action; yet, at the same time, they leave unhelped those who are in the same position as they once were, and uncheered those who are seeking to help others as they helped them. Surely, if the love of Him who, "though He was rich yet for our sakes He became poor," has touched our hearts, we cannot but extend our hand to others; and it is our duty to encourage those who are still in the forefront of arduous labour for God and for the love of their fallen fellows. I come here, then, for the encouragement of Ragged School teachers.

Another reason why I am thankful to be here is that I had the honour and privilege of being introduced to your lordship as one who originally received his training in the Ragged Schools to which you have devoted the best part of your life. I call it an honour, and I mean it, although perhaps I am not wonderfully inclined to have any special regard for social position and rank, but I do honour and venerate one who stands head and shoulders above his fellows by virtue

of his lifelong work and influence on behalf of the poor and neglected and oppressed. I thought, my lord, as I was introduced to you as the representative of a very large parish, to which public attention has been directed very much of late, I thought that you did not know what I know and remember very well, and that is, the first time I saw you, when as a little boy, and you were Lord Ashley, I ran shouting after your carriage when you came to open the first Ragged School in the locality. And I have much to thank you, my lord, and your helpers, for what I received in that school. So I say that the results that follow you know not, and cannot conceive in your mind; but rest fully assured that no labour for God can possibly be thrown away; there are always results following, though you do not always see them. I am still in the midst of the people; I live in the Mint, the same as I did in those early days. Here is Mr. Burman Cassin, who krows me well, and often steps into my shop and gives me a lift by the way and a kindly word of encouragement in my work, for we have a Ragged School in our midst still, and there is, as everybody knows, plenty of work of that sort to be still done. No doubt Canon Cadman remembers my father, for he used to come in and out and give him a word or two, and he was always welcome, although at that time my father was glorying both in drunkenness and vice, but who was brought afterwards, partly through his efforts, to a better and nobler life, and died in glorious hope. Now, to you, my lord, my thanks are due, and to that good man on your right (Canon Cadman), whom I have not met since, but who gave a word of encouragement to a ragged boy, a word that has not been forgotten; and a word of exhortation to a drinking man, a word that sprang up into eternal life: to you I venture to say, you know not where your labour is ended. Other fruits may, by God's help, come from the direct result of your labours.

Some time since a woman came to me: "Mr. Berry, will you come and see my husband? he is sick." "Of course I will." When I got to his bedside I found an old companion of boyhood; but how different we now were! I, by God's grace, had ascended the social scale; he had descended, or at least remained just where he was. My mind went back to the old times when we were two boys together, going out and in the school, tumbling over the forms, and if not bringing in terriers like Mr. Mowll's boys, at any rate letting birds fly in the schoolroom, and doing still worse. I thought of those days as I sat by my old companion's bedside, but "Who maketh you to differ?" As I sat there he said, "Johnnie"—his mind went back to the old name when we played together—"I have sent for you for a little talk. I am going to die." As I sat and talked with him of the things of the kingdom I found him, comparatively speaking, a heathen. "You used," I said, "to go with me to Lant Street; don't you remember what they told you there?" "No," he said, "I've been to no place since then; we used to go there to set the birds a-flying." I tried to recall the

truths and words that had long lain buried in his heart beneath sin and folly, and by God's grace it found a lodging-place there and then. Old memories awakened, old truths came back to him, and he wept like a child. He died some time after, rejoicing, I believe, in the truth that makes free. But that truth which led to his salvation was planted in his heart by a Sunday School teacher, whom he had worried and annoyed times without number, and who has never seen the ample fruition for his labour over that one soul. Ragged School teachers, let me say, labour on at God's command, labour in spite of discouragement, and rest assured you cannot labour in vain.

But the need for your work remains, and oh, how pressing it is! We look on the ignorance and sorrow and sin around, and we know of no true remedy save the Gospel of Jesus Christ. One may wonder why they are so, but for me the thought, "I was of them," stops my mouth. I was standing in the midst of that place, so well known and so much spoken of now, the other day, and as I looked on the boys and girls and the men and women there, I said to myself, "I was once the same; I had no hope in life, no better than those who have been in and out of gaol as many times as I have fingers on my hands. What makes the difference to-day? You see your old companions, they are down and they have kept down; they have the same surroundings as you had, and see what they are! How is it? It is this, that in my early manhood I was taught to come out from sin and give my heart to the Lord Jesus Christ, who has moulded my life and made it what it is." And for this influence of the past falling on my heart like precious dew I have to thank the teachers of the Ragged School, and I am here to-day to say so.

The Right Hon. the EARL of SHAFTESBURY, K.G., who was received with loud and long continued applause, said: Having taken, as you know, this chair for forty years in succession, and on each occasion having had to acknowledge a vote of thanks for so doing, it is very difficult for me to express my thanks in any new form, or indeed, to say anything new with regard to Ragged Schools. I am deeply touched by your kindness and accept your thanks with all my heart.

I regret very much the absence of one of our staunchest and oldest friends, Mr. J. G. Gent, so long the invaluable Secretary of the Union, and for thirty-eight years regularly at this meeting. He is kept at home to-night by ill-health. I pray that God may grant he may long live to give the benefit of his counsel to the Ragged School Union.

Now, I have passed my time very much amongst children to-day. I went this morning to see a large party of children who are going off to Canada, and I told them a story which I hope they will think of and give attention to. I told them that some few years ago we sent out from the Ragged School Union a number of lads to Australia; and so well did they behave, and so good was their conduct, that I received one of the greatest compliments and honours I ever had in my life. A letter was directed to me at the offices of the Ragged School Union,

and it was sent by an Australian squatter, who wrote, "Please send me directly a dozen more of Lord Shaftesbury's lads, for they are the best lads we can get in Australia." So that you are not only doing good to these children and to this country, but also to the countries to which they go.

But look behind you now! Out of the 750 you see here, fully 700 are in domestic service or some other honest employment. They have been taken from the streets and put in the way of earning an honest livelihood. Now, I wish to ask you who have any of them in your households if they have not added comfort, brightness, and peace to your homes, and have you ever regretted that a Ragged School boy or girl has been thus employed. We are greatly dependent upon our servants, and much complaint has been made all over London that good domestic servants cannot be obtained; but here is a means whereby not 700, but 7,000, had we the means, may be sent out all over the great metropolis to become a blessing to the children themselves and to the families who receive them.

Now it has been said that the Ragged School system is no longer necessary, and that the Ragged School Union can be dispensed with. But how is that? Did you listen to the report so ably drawn up by my friend Mr. Kirk? Is the School Board, of which I speak with the greatest respect, for its work is great, is it going to undertake such duties as those set forth in the report to-night? Remember what these children have been—many of them among the most degraded, the most destitute, the most ignorant; so we find them, and we have to give them some notion of those things that are necessary for after life and for domestic duties. They cannot learn them at home, they must be taught by special attention on the part of those good teachers who take care of them, who watch over them, and endeavour to evoke those feelings of affection that were never elicited before. In that way we train the children under a system of love and kindness which to them is marvellous and new. It may be asked, Is it necessary for all these various agencies to be employed, and all this instruction to be given? And could not the School Board give it as well? But remember while the School Board is doing a good work within its own limits, it is necessarily circumscribed. It could not undertake that class of work, and it can only give a certain amount of secular knowledge, which by no means exhausts the requirements of the case. During the year a great number of girls are put out into service, but our care of them does not end there; we watch over them in after life with parental care, and this parental system is absolutely necessary for that destitute class commonly known as ragged children.

Now you may think, perhaps, I am speaking with a great deal of personal feeling about these Ragged School children; but I must tell you that although these children have very few clothes themselves, they are very anxious that I should have plenty, and they give me all sorts of clothes. I will tell you one plain fact, I could give you many. If I were wearing knickerbockers, you would see that I had on a

beautiful pair of stockings, richly worked, and which were presented to me by the children of King Edward Ragged Schools; and which I put on this very day, not with any intention of doing honour to this occasion, but only in the ordinary course of my wear. That fact will show you that Ragged School children are not ungrateful for the kindness shown to them.

Now I have said it before, and I will say it again, so long as ragged children remain in our land, so long you must have a Ragged School system. (Cheers.) How long the Government of the country, and the wiseacres of the country, were before they came to the national system of education in 1870! Before that time I heard comments on the Ragged School system, but I invariably replied, "I do not claim it to be perfect, but we are acting while you are deliberating; we are doing something while you are doing nothing." What has been the result? We have taken off the streets of London over 300,000 children and put them in the way of earning an honest livelihood, either in this country or in the colonies, all of whom belonged to, and would have been brought up among, the dangerous classes of the community. Call this nothing! That could never be done by the School Board, it has no provision to undertake it. These particular duties devolve upon us, and so long as that class remain, so long must the Christians of this country be actively and energetically engaged in doing this work.

Now, while I am speaking of Ragged School children, my attention is called to these flags, which have already been mentioned. Yet our hearts rise in prayer and supplication for the welfare and security of that great and good man, General Gordon, as noble a man as ever lived. If you have ever read John Bunyan's "Pilgrim's Progress," you will find that Greatheart is as good a picture of General Gordon as you can have. I am sure, from what I know of him, that if he lives to come back in safety—as I pray God he may—one of his first acts will be to go and teach again in the Gravesend Ragged School, on which he bestowed those flags, which will stand for ever as a memorial of his name; and if he bring the Mahdi with him, as I hope he may, we will give the Mahdi such a reception that he will never regret the day he paid a visit to the English people.

Now there is but one other remark to make. The Bible Society have lately determined to issue an edition of the New Testament which will put it within reach of every ragged child in the country. They are going to issue an edition of the New Testament at the price of one penny in a legible and durable form, and thus contribute to the circulation of the Word of God and make the work of these Ragged Schools ten times more easy than it is at present. I believe the Ragged School movement is a great institution of the age and indispensable to the state of society in which we live.

Now lately we have had a vast increase of knowledge as to the way people live. The "Bitter Cry of Outcast London" has stirred the public, but I wonder if the writer of that excellent book has paid any attention to this great movement which is going on. The title is one I cannot agree with. "Outcast London!" it

is sought-out London. Everything is known about the slums that could be known. The only reason we have not succeeded in doing more is that we have not had the force and the means put into our hands whereby greater results might have been achieved. Public attention is now roused, hearts are open, and purses too, I trust, and now by God's blessing I hope this movement will go on with increasing vigour and success until we have effaced the class of ragged children from this land. It is said that Henri IV. wished for France that every man had a fowl in his pot, while old George III. wished that every poor man had the Bible in his cottage. God grant that both may be united, and that every poor man may have a fowl in his pot and God's Word in his hand. And this is possible, and I believe will be accomplished if you are determined as one man to give your means, your prayers, and your efforts towards this blessed consummation.

The children having sung a closing hymn, the benediction was pronounced by the Rev. Canon Cadman and the proceedings terminated.

THE REMEDY. THE EVIL.

RAGGED SCHOOLS OF MANCHESTER AND SALFORD.

The illustration at the head of these brief notices, which are a continuation of the story of Ragged School Work in Manchester, is a pretty and truthful view of the change effected by such blessed ministrations to the waifs and strays of society as the Ragged Schools of London and the large towns of England continue to supply.

Ormond Street Sunday Evening School.

This school—the first Ragged School established in this district—was

the outcome of strong impressions made on the mind of that dear servant of God, Mr. Edwin Gibbs, in the year 1851, by seeing so many children hanging about the streets on the Sabbath, dissipating that holy day; and after turning several thoughts over in his mind, he, along with Mr. James Brierley, secured a room in John Street, near Ormond Street, in which a number of dirty sons of the gutter were induced to attend to hear words whereby they might be saved. But according to the first report which was issued, the primary task appears to have been to civilise them. After a while, the "old room in Ormond Street" was secured, and the John Street room closed, as being too small. The attendance soon increased to such an extent that another room had to be taken in connection with Ormond Street, and a service was being conducted in each room at the same time, there being present at the two services on November 22, 1863, no fewer than 540 scholars. The attendance went on increasing till 1865, when another Ragged School was opened in connection with the Cavendish Street Chapel, which caused very many of our scholars to leave us, and so relieved the pressure on our accommodation; and from that time to the present the attendance has kept pretty evenly balanced, the average attendance being now about 200 or so. Some of the teachers now engaged in the school were at one time scholars; therefore, having been trained themselves from the classes with which we have to deal, they make very efficient workers in the cause. One very great reason of the falling-off in the attendance of scholars was the removal from the Ormond Street School to the school in Eagle Street, which we rent from the Wesleyan Methodist body for a yearly sum of £20. The attachment to the old place had become so strong that when it was reopened for some other kind of Sabbath evening service by a body different from our own, the scholars have remained, and we have been greatly pleased, thanked God, and taken courage for the testimony we have had from some of them for the good they have received.

Ellor Street School, Pendleton.

A quarter of a century has rolled away since, through the instrumentality mainly of a Ragged School boy and a Ragged School female teacher (both originally from the other side of the city), this institution was launched on its career in a small cottage, the owner of which—good Samaritan as he was—consented to let the newly formed little band of teachers have it rent free. To recount our chequered course since then would be inappropriate now; we may, however, simply remark that in November of 1858, after much consideration, it was decided to commence on the first Sunday evening in Decem-

ber. We may surely say that its birth was baptized in prayer and seconded by earnest work, for on that same Sunday afternoon the friends met for devout supplication to God, then the small company separated and went down into the streets and alleys by two-and-two to compel the children to come in. It could not be said literally that night "yet there is room," for before the evening was over 100 scholars filled every corner, and nook, and cranny of that tiny tenement in the croft, and now those of us especially who have been in the work for many long years, are confident from experience that both directly and indirectly much good has been accomplished in this district through the agency of our school. We cannot go into details, but it is not too much to say that the masses of children who have passed through our doors have had and will have had cause to be grateful for the patient efforts of those who have within these walls ever sought their best interests, both for the life that now is as well as for that which is to come. In the very nature of the work it is difficult to tabulate with any defined certainty specific religious results, but it is impossible, if the Bible be true, that for twenty-five years children should come and go without some abiding spiritual impressions being made upon them, and which in maturer life shall have some effect upon their moral and religious character. Many of them drift away continuously to other scenes, a goodly number follow on to attend our churches and chapels. We may lose sight of them, but we cherish still the hope that there is found in them some good thing towards the Lord God of Israel. Other and more regular religious organisations benefit to some extent from what has been taught here. Without irreverence we quote Christ's words, "Herein is that saying true, One soweth and another reapeth."

DEPTFORD RAGGED SCHOOL BAZAAR.

On Wednesday afternoon, June 11th, a bazaar was opened in the New Cross Hall, in aid of the building fund of the Deptford Ragged School. It was announced that the Earl of Shaftesbury would open the bazaar, but his lordship was unable to be present, and that part of the ceremony was performed by Mrs. Bristow, wife of the treasurer. The hall had been fitted out with chalets to represent a Swiss village, each chalet being presided over by persons connected with some local church or chapel, both Churchmen and Nonconformists having entered heartily into the work. The chalets were named as follows:—Chalet Jung Frau, Chalet du Mont Blanc, Chalet du Géant, Chalet du Matterhorn, Chalet Monte Rosa, Chalet de Grand Mulets, Chalet du Midi,

and Restaurant du St. Gothard, three occupying each side of the hall, and the remaining two the platform, and upon them were exhibited for sale fancy and useful articles in endless variety. In addition there were flower stalls, refreshment stall, and a shoe for the sale of dolls, presided over by a young lady in grandmother's cap and dress. On the platform there was an excellent display of choice flowering plants, and the front of the gallery was decorated with shields and draped flags, and in the gallery itself the band of the J or Deptford company of the 2nd Volunteer Battalion Royal West Kent Regiment played selections. The bazaar was unusually attractive and reflected great credit upon those engaged in its preparation. In the centre of the room was a fish pond for prize angling, and one noticeable object was a splendid rocking-horse, with real horse-skin, given to the school by the children of Mr. J. P. Knight. The donations to the fund already given and promised reached £420, and the further sum required was £1,300. One of the pleasant features of the bazaar was the union of the various sections of the Christian church. The Church of England, represented by St. Peter's and St. John's, the ministers of which are the Rev. J. Wetherell and the Rev. J. Aston, and the Baptist and Congregational churches, of which the Rev. J. T. Wigner and the Rev. Morley Wright are the ministers, displayed great interest in the undertaking. The ladies of the respective churches seemed to have vied with each other as to which should furnish the largest amount of objects of use and beauty.

The opening ceremony took place at 3.30, the Rev. J. Malcolmson presiding, supported by Mrs. Bristow, the Revs. J. A. Aston, C. J. Wetherell, Sabine Read, J. Morley Wright, and J. T. Wigner, Mr. H. Bristow-Wallen, Mr. T. Arnold, hon. sec., Mr. W. T. Rolfe, hon. sec. of the building fund, &c. The Ragged School Union was represented by Mr. R. J. Curtis. After prayer by the Rev. J. T. Wigner,

Mr. Rolfe read a letter from the Earl of Shaftesbury, in which his lordship said he had gone into the country for a few days in search of health, which he had failed to find, and had in consequence a few days since been compelled to decline the office of pall-bearer at the funeral of his dear and valued friend Sir Bartle Frere. He had also engaged to attend a drawing-room at his own house on Friday, but must remain in the country until the last moment, and regretted that he could not attend to open the bazaar at New Cross, as no institution in England was more worthy of support than the Deptford Ragged School, but the annoyance it caused him was far greater to himself than any he would inflict on others by his absence.

Mr. Arnold, the secretary, gave some particulars of the dilapidations at the Giffin Street School, which rendered a new building necessary, and asked Mrs. Bristow to open the bazaar.

Mrs. BRISTOW having declared the bazaar open,

Letters expressive of regret at their non-attendance were read from the Duke of Argyll, the Duke of Westminster, Mr. T. W. Boord, M.P., the Baron H. de Worms, M.P., Sir W. T. Charley, Mrs. Penn, H. J. Bristow, &c., &c.

The Rev. C. J. WETHERELL moved that the committee and those present deeply regretted the cause of the absence of the Earl of Shaftesbury, and tendered their sympathy to his lordship, and hoped that it would please God to restore him to health to enable him to carry on his good work in the cause of Ragged Schools.

This was seconded by the Rev. J. MORLEY WRIGHT, supported by the Rev. J. ASTON, and carried unanimously.

The benediction by the Rev. S. SABINE READ concluded the opening proceedings.

The net amount realised cannot at present be given, but it is believed it will not be less than £600.

IMPORTANT CITY MEETING ON THE EXTENSION OF RAGGED SCHOOLS.

IN order to strengthen and extend the work amongst poor children with which our noble President has been so long identified, and also as a memento of the honour of citizenship to be conferred upon him by the Corporation of the City of London on the 20th of June, 1884, the Committee of the Ragged School Union resolved, God helping them, to raise a special fund of £20,000, to be entitled the "Shaftesbury Fund."

To aid in carrying out so beneficent an enterprise the Lord Mayor granted the use of the Egyptian Hall of the Mansion House in which to hold a public meeting. This was accordingly held on the afternoon of Wednesday, the 18th June, on which occasion the LORD MAYOR, who was to have presided, opened the meeting in the following brief, telling, and effective speech:—

I deeply regret to be obliged by pressing official duties to leave at once, and I will ask my old friend Sir Robert Carden, M.P., to take my place. He needs no introduction here, being well known as a warm friend of Ragged Schools, and as having himself for many years conducted a Ragged School. We are all of us, I am sure, thankful to see here our honoured friend Lord Shaftesbury, who has for so many years rendered very good service to every good cause; but if there is one cause that more than any other lies near his heart, it is the cause of Ragged Schools. He

has devoted his time, talents, and influence with untiring zeal to the welfare of the destitute and neglected children of the toiling poor. I feel I cannot at all express my own sense of the very great service this grand movement has rendered to the metropolis. If London is in an improved condition when compared with forty years ago—and we have the testimony of Lord Shaftesbury and others that such is the case—I believe it is very much due to the influence and labours of the Ragged Schools. I wish I might have remained with you, but rest assured that my warmest sympathy and well-wishes are with this great movement, with the Ragged School Union, and with the great army of teachers who, at no small cost of self-denial and toil, labour on behalf of the ragged children of the metropolis.

Sir Robert Carden, M.P., now took the chair, and after prayer by Rev. James Malcomson, Mr. John Kirk (secretary of the Ragged School Union) read letters of apology from the Duke of Westminster, the Duchess of Abercorn, the Earl of Aberdeen, Lord Justice Baggallay, the Earl Cairns, the Baroness Burdett Coutts, Sir Henry and Lady Knight, the Archbishop of Canterbury, the Bishop of London, Miss Hesba Stretton, Rev. C. H. Spurgeon, Mr. John MacGregor, Mr. Samuel Morley, M.P., Rev. Neville Sherbrooke, Hon. and Rev. R. Carr Glynn, Mr. Stevenson Blackwood, C.B., Mr. J. D. Allcroft, Mr. T. A. Denny, and many others.

Sir Robert Carden then called on Mr. H. R. Williams, who, after having in a prepared address touchingly alluded to the fact that it was the fortieth year of the Society, which had specially to do with the amelioration of the condition of a class of children who, at the time of its inauguration by Earl Shaftesbury, were utterly neglected, and seemed to be abandoned to the devil, entered into a variety of particulars, which are amply detailed in the Abstract of the Ragged School Union's Report, that was read at its recent annual meeting, and which may be found on page 105. The statement then proceeded to particularise some of the more recent activities of the Society, which meets the movements of the times, and which are intended to hold the elder scholars, such as Youths' Institutes, Drum and Fife Bands, Reading Rooms, Industrial Classes, Christian Bands, Classes for the study of the Bible, Chess Clubs, Bands of Hope, Temperance Societies, and for summer Swimming and Cricket. To draw boys and girls of an evening from the street, open rooms may be found here and there in which boys and girls may freely enter or withdraw, and which are provided with the means of recreation and instruction. Industrial Exhibitions, which call out the inventive faculties of the children, are held annually at many of the schools. Window Gardening and Flower Services give a zest to the growth and cultivation

of flowers; and, considering the places of their growth, many creditable specimens grown by the children are annually put in competition. To "a day in the country" has been added, for weakly and convalescent children living in our overcrowded courts and thoroughfares, a fortnight or more in the pure air and brighter scenes of some far-off country village, or a like sojourn by the seaside, with their revivifying and health-giving influences. Children's Dinners are a long-established institution, which in some cases the smallest current coin of the realm purchases, but are for the most part given gratuitously to the most needy and destitute of the children.

Tens of thousands of children have passed through the schools of the Union. It is not too much to say that between 300,000 and 400,000 have been rescued from the streets, and assisted to become good and useful citizens. Nor is it too much to say that many of the benevolent efforts now in active operation, not even excepting the great scheme of National Education, originated in, or were made more easy of introduction by, the devotion and earnestness of those who constituted the voluntary and unpaid teachers of the Union.

The duty of maintaining, with increased efficiency, this beneficent system, was amply demonstrated at the Conference on Ragged Schools, held in April last year, at Exeter Hall, and presided over by the Earl of Shaftesbury. The resolution, moved and amplified by the Duke of Westminster, and seconded by the Earl of Aberdeen, expressed the unanimous conviction of the large and influential assemblage which had been drawn together from all parts of the country to take part in the proceedings:

"That, while recognising with gratitude the great extension of Elementary Education throughout the country, this Conference expresses its *earnest* conviction of the need of maintaining and extending Ragged Schools and their affiliated Missions as centres of Christian benevolence, and important factors in the prevention and diminution of crime, and heartily commends the efforts of the Ragged School Union in that behalf to the support of the community."

The statements made at this Conference have led to a great awakening of the public conscience, and renewed efforts for the social, moral, and spiritual elevation of the neglected poor are being made in many portions of the metropolis and elsewhere. With a profound conviction of their responsibility, and impressed with the importance of maintaining with increased efficiency the schools and missions with which they are associated, and if possible to extend the beneficent operations so long carried on to the advantage of the community generally, the Committee, after much prayerful consideration, have resolved, God helping them, to raise a fund of £20,000, which they propose to call the "Shaftesbury Fund," for consolidating and extending the work of the Union.

To inaugurate the "Shaftesbury Fund" the Committee have resolved to devote an unexpected legacy, which has just been announced to them, of £1,000, and they earnestly trust that so good a beginning will be followed by those who have the means and whose hearts the Lord may touch to help by generous contributions in this work of mercy.

Many of their schools, tested by modern sanitary requirements, are not only unsuitable for the work in which they are engaged, but are altogether inadequate and unfit, in their present state, for the large number of children claiming admission. The leases of several buildings, which for many years had formed centres of great practical benevolence and usefulness, are now falling in, and efforts are being made for their retention. In two or three cases the freehold of the dilapidated building has been secured with the intention of carrying out the required improvements so soon as the necessary funds can be obtained. The Committee are already pledged to give grants of money to several of the oldest and most useful schools, with a view either to their rebuilding or renovation. Extensive repairs are absolutely necessary in many schools, and if at a moderate expense accommodation could be provided for 10,000 additional children, and the mission operations of the Union extended, the "Shaftesbury Fund" will not have been instituted in vain.

Our venerable president, the Right Hon. the EARL of SHAFTESBURY, K.G., said: We all know and are perfectly aware that most of the audience here assembled must be pretty well wearied out by the reiterated statements about Ragged Schools and the appeals made for the extension of these schools. Those of us who have borne the burden and heat of the day might be imagined to feel a species of nausea in being compelled to the constant repetition of the same sentiments, the same language, the same appeals; perhaps our hearts might grow faint and weary in the face of so very much opposition and so very little return for the efforts made to enlist sympathy, and might by some be expected to sit down in despair. But it is no such thing. There is the work; the work pressing to be done, the need more than ever, because the population is vastly increasing. The work is ten times greater and requires tenfold greater efforts than those already made. Why don't you do a great deal more? it may be asked. We are prepared to do ten times as much were the means put at our disposal. We need the sinews of war; these must be supplied ere the war is carried on with greater efficiency. We have been enabled to do a very great work, although that work might be enormously increased. We have seen changes of the most considerable benefit to society; we know that there are now several thousands who

are reaping in time and in eternity the blessing of their Ragged School teaching. But while this is so, and the greatest benefits have been conferred on the nation, we still see the abounding need, and are compelled to make a special appeal for the furtherance and enlargement of this great movement, the most valuable and blessed I ever knew in my time.

Well, now this special appeal is made in order in some measure to enlarge and even to improve buildings. We have a large number of buildings of a great many kinds. Even the most inferior are infinitely superior to some I remember in former days; yet even these will not meet the requirements of some modern inspectors, who make suggestions, some of them very good in their way, only they are not within reach of our scanty means.

I can recall some of the schools of those old days, when teachers and scholars met in dark, dismal, foul, miserable places, in which, if you were to sit for an hour, it would require a very strong head and a very strong stomach to prevent evil consequences. But our early teachers bore it and did their work well notwithstanding. All honour to them in so doing. Now it has become necessary to improve and alter some of these buildings in order to meet the requirements, the reasonable requirements, of the inspectors.

Then we want to enlarge some of the schools, and in order that all the children who can be found should be admitted it is really necessary to enlarge the buildings. We want to be able to receive the children who present themselves. What can be more painful to an earnest and sincere teacher than to see children turned away absolutely for want of room—turned away from their only chance of education and sympathy?

Then it is necessary to have a fixed locality in every district where they may know there is a Ragged School. These children are so fascinated by our peculiar system of Ragged Schools that when they come to a new district many of them make it the first point to find out where the Ragged School is. I suppose most of you know that there is in London a very large migratory population who never remain longer—and very often not nearly so long as three or four months in one place, and when the parents move, of course the children go with them. Thus there are thousands of children who are constantly going to new districts and are on the look-out for the Ragged School. If you have some of them three weeks or a month only you must endeavour that the tuition given in that period will be such as to have some material effect on the mind of the child; and you do it under difficulties, for much that you give is blunted or warped by home associations and training.

Now you have heard the operations and results of Ragged Schools,

and you see the way in which we reach and raise these children. These industrial classes are most valuable, and the children learn readily, and I must say they are the most industrious children I know anywhere. Half naked as many of them are, they are very anxious that I at least should be clothed well, and they have made me all sort of garments, and made them well too. Flower Shows have been mentioned. Well, you should see the Ragged School exhibitions of flowers grown by the children. It is a refining and elevating taste, and one to be encouraged. I do not know how they do it in their close and and unhealthy courts, but they do.

Now these are the schools on behalf of which we claim your liberality; we want to enlarge them, and many of them sorely need it. I am sure you feel that it is one of the best ways in which you can not only help the poor and raise the fallen, but also benefit in no small degree your own country.

Did you notice that statement made just now? It is a statement I have often made, and it is perfectly true and within the facts of the case, that during these years we have taken off the streets of London, and trained and sent some to the colonies, retaining by far the larger number here as valuable servants and industrious workmen, over 300,000 children, who but for us would have remained on the streets, and have been numbered among the dangerous classes. Altogether, apart from the fact that we have trained them in the fear and knowledge of God, there is the fact that those who would have grown up outcasts, and criminals, and paupers, have been made good wives, good servants, good working men, and good everything for the benefit, and comfort, and safety of society in which we live, and the well-being and prosperity of those who are to come after us.

Now that being so, and seeing what is yet to be done, I feel I may take the words of good old Archbishop Sumner and apply them to these children, and pray that by means of your liberality there may be "a fold for every sheep and a shepherd for every fold." That is our desire for these children, and I believe that with your help the result will be so. I trust this great city will come heartily and nobly to the help of this blessed effort. The resolution is as as follows:

"That this meeting desires to record its heartfelt thanks to Almighty God for the successes which have attended the labours of the Ragged School Union during the last forty years, and earnestly trusts that the efforts now being made by the Committee to maintain and extend its influence may be crowned with abundant success."

Rev. Burman Cassin, M.A., in seconding the resolution, said: This meeting needs very little from me. I wish to be very practical.

You have heard the state of things, and I am quite sure you are met for the purpose of remedying them. A meeting of business men in the City of London means business, and the work I have to put before you is the necessity of raising this fund of which you have heard, and I am sure it will be done. When I came into the room I heard one gentleman say, "What is the meeting about?" "To raise £20,000," said his friend. "Why not make it £50,000?" was the reply. It could be done if you would but do it. Now I want to take you in imagination to a very aristocratic part of South London; it is called the Mint, which happens to lie under the very shadow of my own church. In a very small part of that district there are twenty-five common lodging-houses in one or two streets and several courts, the inmates of which pay 3d. or 4d. a night for the shelter of a roof. Now in these lodging-houses are several thousands of children; the narrow streets swarm with them, any number of children are to be found—curly-headed, pretty, but ragged children; and if you come with me you will find them quite enjoying themselves in their own way in these very narrow alleys and courts. It is perfectly distressing to see the number of children who cannot get into school, however anxious they are. We have about 180 crammed into a wretched little room not large enough to hold more than a hundred, and still we have to turn the children away by scores. We want money to erect some suitable place, and were funds supplied we could put up a place to accommodate five or six hundred children every Sunday. Now I tell you this from my own district, that you may be able to judge of the similar need which exists elsewhere in many parts of the metropolis.

Mr. J. G. Gent, in supporting the resolution, said: I stand here heart and soul in this great work, yet scarcely able to open my mouth to plead the grand cause. I have just got up from a bed of sickness. But my strong desire for the good of this work, in which I have been engaged from its very commencement in London, induces me to put forth an effort to say that I do most earnestly trust that the special fund referred to in the statement read and in the remarks made by Lord Shaftesbury will be speedily raised, that our appeal will be readily, nobly, and suitably responded to, so that we shall be enabled to go forward from this day and bring in not only fifty or sixty thousand children, but a hundred thousand children, which can be easily found. They are there in our courts, in our alleys, in our lanes. As Mr. Cassin has just said, they are to be found if Christian men and women will go out after them and invite them, and instruct them in the knowledge of the truth, and teach them that which will be useful to them here and beneficial to them in eternity.

A telegram was read from the Right Hon. the Earl and Countess of Aberdeen, expressing regret at unavoidable absence and warmest wishes for the success of the endeavour being made.

The resolution was then put and carried, while the chairman reminded all present that they were thus committing themselves to the work of raising the Shaftesbury Fund of £20,000.

Sir THOMAS FOWELL BUXTON moved the following resolution:—

"That the hearty thanks of this meeting be presented to the Right Hon. the Lord Mayor for the use of the Egyptian Hall, and for his good service in opening the meeting, and to Sir Robert Carden for his kindness in presiding on his Lordship being obliged to leave."

He said: I am very thankful to Mr. Kirk for giving me the opportunity of expressing my sincere and hearty sympathy with the work of the Ragged School Union. We have heard hints of antagonism between the Board Schools and the Ragged Schools. There may have been some such feeling, but it is past now; both have learned that the two are equally necessary, we cannot possibly do without either. If you are at sea and want merely to catch large fish, you will put down a net with large meshes; but if you want to sweep up every fish, you put down nets with large and small meshes, nets of various kind and contrivance.

Again, any of us who know something of farming, know that some years ago we cut our hay with scythes; but, by-and-by, machines were brought into use, which cut it wholesale. But still there are steep places, and corners among the trees, and near the hedgeways, where the machines cannot go, and there the scythe must be used. Any farmer who wants to get the whole of his hay cut, to reap it properly, must use both the scythe and the machine, for there are many difficult places and nooks and corners where the grass is well worth securing, but escapes the machine. Now that seems to me a very fair illustration of the need there is for both the Ragged School and Board School systems. There need not be any antagonism between the two—both are wanted and are likely to be wanted. All who know anything practically of the state of things, know that the two systems are mutually helpful and equally important. The one system is amply provided for and needs not to apply to the charity of men; but the other, the Ragged School system, is wholly supported by voluntary liberality. And this system reaches those who are inclined to regard the Board School system as somewhat despotic; they may be won by the Ragged School teacher, and when won and trained become useful and industrious citizens, but they will not be driven.

Now this voluntary and philanthropic system urgently requires our help. This meeting is assembled to support it, and I trust the response will be such as will enable the workers to go forward in their noble enterprise with renewed vigour and increased efficiency. I trust this meeting will be the means of awakening a very wide sympathy and support, and that the Ragged School movement will receive help from all who can give it, and that above all the blessing of the Lord God Almighty will rest upon its labours on behalf of these poor children.

Dr. CORY said: I introduce myself as an old Ragged School teacher in the East of London, where I have met with a great number of instances of the blessing of Ragged School work. The trouble I have always found to be, not to get the children, but to get the funds. I ask you to help us to-day in this matter. The real requirement is the sinews of war.

Sir ROBERT CARDEN, M.P., read out the names of those who had contributed towards the special fund. He then said: There are some few who talk as if Ragged Schools were unnecessary. I say you know nothing about it; you know nothing of the thousands of gutter children who are quite unreached by the Board School. There is more need for the Ragged School to-day than ever; there is a greater necessity than ever for the work.

Then there are some who have perhaps once or twice visited a Ragged School, and who say, "It is a misnomer, these are not ragged children." I can tell such, they came to us ragged enough, and they would be ragged enough now but for the school.

I want just to express my thanks to the Lord Mayor for granting the use of this noble Egyptian Hall for our meeting. I may say he is already distinguished among all former Mayors by the number of times he has permitted this hall to be used for such purposes. And it is well that Ragged Schools should have a meeting here, for the work and the necessity for the work is not fully understood and appreciated by the upper classes. I want in closing just to say that in giving your money to this work you know that every penny you give will be beneficially expended in the direct work of Ragged Schools.

PRESENTATION OF THE FREEDOM OF THE CITY TO LORD SHAFTESBURY.

THE truth of Milton's somewhat hackneyed phrase, "Peace hath her victories no less renown'd than war," was forcibly brought home to the minds of those who witnessed the presentation of the freedom

of the City to the venerable Earl of Shaftesbury on Friday afternoon, June 20, in the Library of the Guildhall. Many a noble warrior has received this high civic honour, and it is not very long since Lord Wolseley and Lord Alcester, fresh from the campaign in Egypt, listened to the eloquent address of the Chamberlain in the Guildhall. On this occasion the City met to do honour to one who is pre-eminently a man of peace, one whose long labours for the poor and the oppressed have won for him a fame equal to that of any military hero. Though somewhat tardily, perhaps, the Corporation did well to resolve, by a unanimous vote, to confer the freedom of the City upon this aged veteran.

A daïs covered with red baize was erected at the eastern e d of the Library, upon which were seated the Lord Mayor in his state robes, Alderman Sir R. W. Carden, M.P., who, like his Lordship, was received with much applause, Mr. Alderman Lawrence, M.P., Alderman Sir T. Gabriel, Bart., Alderman Sir J. C. Lawrence, Bart., M.P., Alderman Sir T. Dakin, Mr. Alderman Stone, Mr. Alderman Cotton, M.P., Alderman Sir T. S. Owden, Alderman Sir H. E. Knight, Mr. Alderman Nottage, Mr. Alderman Staples, Alderman Sir R. Hanson, Mr. Alderman Waterlow, Mr. Alderman Whitehead, Mr. Alderman Gray, Mr. Sheriff Clarence Smith, and Lieut.-Colonel and Sheriff Cowan, most of the aldermen and sheriffs wearing their scarlet gowns. Lord Aberdeen and Lady Aberdeen also occupied seats on the daïs. Immediately in front was the officers' table, at which sat the Recorder (Sir T. Chambers, Q.C., M.P.), the Chamberlain (Mr. B. Scott, F.R.A.S.), the Town Clerk (Sir J. B. Monckton, F.S.A.), the Common Serjeant (Sir W. T. Charley, Q.C.), the Comptroller (Mr. Brand), the Remembrancer (Mr. Goldney), the Solicitor (Sir T. J. Nelson). The Swordbearer (Mr. Winzar), and the Macebearer (Captain Skey), were in attendance on the Lord Mayor. On either side of the library seats were reserved for the Councillors, who appeared generally in their mazarine gowns, and at the far end other seats were set apart for friends of the Court, who filled up the remaining space.

The preliminary business of the Court having been gone through, Mr. Loveridge (Chairman of the City Lands Committee) and Alderman Sir R. W. Carden, M.P., the mover and seconder of the address, proceeded to the aldermen's room in search of the Earl, who was accompanied through the library by the prime warden of the Fishmongers' Company (Alderman Sir T. Dakin), the late prime warden (Mr. Fordham), Warden and Alderman Sir J. C. Lawrence, Bart., M.P., Mr. Warden Beckwith, Mr. Warden Lister, and the clerk (Mr. W. B. Towse).

The appearance of Lord Shaftesbury was the signal for loud and

prolonged applause. The Earl was invited to a seat to the left of the Lord Mayor.

The Town Clerk having read the resolution of the Court, Major Sewell (clerk of the Chamberlain's Court) submitted the compurgator's testimony, setting forth that the Earl was a nobleman of good name and fame who did not desire to defraud the Queen or the City of any of their rights, customs, or advantages, and further stating that he was prepared to pay his scot and bear his lot.

Alderman Sir T. DAKIN then came forward as Prime Warden of the Fishmongers' Company, to present the Earl, Lord Shaftesbury having received the freedom of that company last February. His Lordship having made and subscribed the usual declaration,

The CHAMBERLAIN (Mr. B. Scott) read the following address:—My Lord Shaftesbury,—The resolution of this honourable Court, instructing me to record your name on the roll of Honorary Freemen of this City, so tersely, yet exhaustively, reflects the opinion of this Court that it leaves me, in the discharge of an accustomed duty, nothing but the task of expanding and thereby weakening that which has been so epigrammatically expressed. And yet your Lordship will feel, I am sure, that it is desirable to particularise and place on permanent record some detail of the good work which one life has been enabled to accomplish; not because it will be agreeable to your Lordship to listen to your own praises, but because of the influence of example and for the encouragement of those who, now or hereafter, may strive, as your Lordship has striven, to benefit their fellows and to lift humanity to a higher level. Bear with me then, my Lord, while I briefly and very imperfectly enumerate some of the benevolent work which you have been privileged to accomplish. We must look back at least half a century for the commencement of your Lordship's philanthropic career. Inheriting an elevated social position, and having attained distinguished academical honours, the road to the highest positions in the State lay open before you, but it was plainly apparent that your aspirations and tastes did not lay in the direction of self-aggrandisement or the attainment of lofty political position; for of your Lordship it might be affirmed from the beginning,—

> "For other aims your heart has learned to prize,
> More skilled to raise the wretched than to rise."

The condition of children and women naturally attracted your Lordship's early attention and heartfelt sympathy. It will hardly be credited in the present day that less than fifty years since boys of tender years were compelled with bleeding feet to climb chimneys under circumstances of great hardship and brutality; that boys and

girls of six, five, nay, even sometimes of four years were toiling in mills and factories, ten, twelve, and even fifteen hours a day—anticipating the stern struggles of life, severe enough and early enough for those of mature age—thousands of these little ones, in what should have been the bright morning of life, finding a welcome exit from a world which man's selfishness had made too hard for endurance. Women and girls, dressed as men, unsexed in mind and manners as in appearance, were then employed in exhausting and degrading drudgery in mines and collieries, performing tasks now appropriately devolved upon beasts of draught. At the time to which I refer, thousands of children unkempt, almost unclothed, altogether uneducated and uncared for, roamed the streets of our cities and large towns, picking up, by honest or dishonest means, as opportunity offered, a bare subsistence; sleeping on doorsteps, in market carts, under arches or the open sky. Your Lordship has been permitted the unspeakable satisfaction of seeing all this very greatly changed, by the loving sympathy, wisdom, and perseverance of yourself and the worthy coadjutors who, inspired by your Lordship's example, laboured with yourself for the passing of the Climbing-boys Act, the Factory and Ten Hours Acts, the Mines and Colliery Regulation Acts, by the establishment of Ragged Schools, training ships, refuges for boys and girls, and other philanthropic institutions. It would be equally tedious and distasteful to your Lordship were I to dwell in detail on the varied labours of your long and valued life, or I might narrate your Lordship's share in striking the fetters from the slaves in our colonies and elsewhere; your successful efforts for ameliorating the condition of lunatics; your encouragement of City mission work in the courts and slums of our vast metropolis, and the translation and circulation of the Holy Scriptures in the various languages of the globe. I might point out, moreover, how your Lordship, extending your sympathy beyond and beneath human beings, put forth efforts on behalf of wronged and tortured dumb animals. Rather than dwell further on these points, I prefer to quote a few lines of a gifted lady who celebrated in verse your Lordship's eightieth birthday:—

"For eighty years the champion of the right
Of hapless child, neglected and forlorn;
Of maniac, dungeoned in his doubled night;
Of woman, overtasked and labour-worn;
Of homeless boy, in streets with peril rife;
Of workman, sickening in his airless den;
Of Indian, parching for the streams of life;
Of negro, held in bonds by cruel men.

O friend of all the friendless 'neath the sun,
Whose hand hath wiped away ten thousand tears,
Whose fervid lips and strong wise brain have done
God's holy service, lo, these eighty years."

It may be supposed by some, who did not witness the earlier years of your Lordship's career, that your philanthropic progress has been one continued triumph, accompanied by the plaudits of an admiring world. Little do such know or remember the obloquy, misrepresentation, and opposition which your Lordship encountered for many long years. A whole generation passed away before the Factory Acts were placed on the Statute-books, and every amelioration was obtained only after protracted and bitter struggles. Even thirty years ago an effort for the elevation of the working classes, in which I had the satisfaction of working as honorary secretary under your Lordship as vice-president, was so opposed to the sentiment of that day, that a leading London journal declined our advertisements, and our announcements were torn from the walls by order of the Metropolitan Police authorities; thus a branch of philanthropic work was postponed for a quarter of a century, because denied the publicity accorded to the lowest entertainments of the metropolis. But your Lordship has been spared to witness the turning of the tide of public sentiment, and applause now greets efforts which were formerly regarded by some as mistaken and mischievous, and by others little less than criminal. It has been ever thus—

"But humanity sweeps onward—
Far in front the cross stands ready and the crackling faggots burn,
While the hooting mob of yesterday in silent awe return
To glean up the scattered ashes into History's golden urn."

Happily we meet your Lordship in the flesh, and we are not called to gather up your Lordship's venerated remains otherwise than in a metaphorical sense by conferring such honour as we may upon your Lordship's life-long labours on behalf of the young, the ignorant, the degraded, and the oppressed; and I proceed, as directed by this Court, to offer your Lordship the right hand of fellowship and a hearty welcome as a freeman of London, together with the copy of your freedom in a suitable casket which has been prepared for its reception. And now in the name of his Lordship in the chair and every member of this Court, I express an earnest wish and prayer that in continued health and vigour of mind and body you may yet be spared some years to aid in the attainment of much good which remains to be accomplished.

The CHAMBERLAIN gave Lord Shaftesbury the right hand of fellowship, and the address, which, together with the freedom, was enclosed

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The CHAMBERLAIN gave Lord Shaftesbury the right hand of fellowship, and the address, which, together with the freedom, was enclosed

in a beautiful gold casket bearing the inscription, "Presented, with the freedom of the City, by the Corporation of London to the Right Hon. the Earl of Shaftesbury, K.G., D.C.L."

The EARL of SHAFTESBURY, who was greeted with hearty cheers, said: My Lord Mayor and members of the Court,—You will, I am sure, perceive that I am placed in a position of great embarrassment. You have listened to the address that has been made to me, and you have listened to the narrative that the worthy Chamberlain has been so kind as to insert in his address. Now, you must feel that if I say nothing at all in reply, I must be held ungrateful; and if I say very little, I must be held to be totally inadequate. But I will say that I do feel in my deepest heart, and in my inmost soul, the honour you have conferred upon me. How I rejoice, how I thank you, for having enrolled me in the list of the noble and honourable citizens of London. It has often been said that it would be a very good thing if men could see themselves as others see them. It is true; but in my case I believe it would have been a serious evil if I had seen myself some years ago in the light in which the worthy Chamberlain has represented me; I should have been puffed up and exalted above measure. I can only say now that if by the grace of God I have been able to achieve anything, it has been achieved not with my own strength, but with the strength of a higher Power. Here let me remark—and I have to bear testimony to some who are living and some who are gone—how struck I have been in the whole course of my career with the number, the fitness, and the readiness of the agents that rise up upon all occasions in this great country of England, whenever there is anything good, anything noble, anything worthy to be done for the honour of God and for the welfare of the human race. You hoped that there would be a few years spared to me. The years that remain to me must be very few in which I can enjoy the honour you have bestowed upon me; and there is the advantage that the time is very short in which I can have any opportunity whatever to tarnish the honour and dignity which I have received this day. Now, my Lord Mayor and members of the Court, it is a very high honour for any one to be admitted into the roll of this ancient, loyal, and noble City—a city distinguished at all times for its love of civil and religious liberty, for its noble spirit of charity, for the foundation of great institutions, for its desire of social progress, and, let me add—for it is a good time to speak about it—for its noble character and bearing, its considerable successes and unimpeachable position as a landlord in the great sister island of Ireland, which we have heard so much talked of. I repeat by word of mouth the words I have just recited,

that it will be an honour and a pleasure to me to obey the Lord Mayor; it will be an honour and a pleasure to me to uphold the rights of the City, and to perform humble service in the ranks, if I can be called upon in any way to uphold their ancient, long-established, and nobly-used privileges. My Lord, I accept the casket with much gratitude; but with still more gratitude do I accept that document that is contained in it. I trust that it will be an heirloom in my family. I trust that it will go down to my posterity, and that those who come after me will regard it with the same reverence and affection as I do at this moment myself. Though the world is closing before me, I confess I rejoice even at this late period to be admitted to the long rolls and ranks of a noble and worthy body of men. In these days a man that has ever been spoken of the least in the world is sure to be recorded in the newspapers when his last days are over, or else be sent out into the world in minute biography; and, in conclusion, I only hope and pray that those who undertake that duty for me will have the goodness to record that I died a citizen of London.

The Earl having subscribed the roll, Mr. LOVERIDGE moved, "That the address of the Chamberlain, and the answer, be entered on the journals of the Court, and printed in the minutes to be sent to every member." Alderman Sir R. W. CARDEN seconded the motion, which was agreed to. The Court then adjourned, and his Lordship left the Guildhall amidst general applause.

The gold casket presented to the Earl of Shaftesbury was made by Messrs. G. Edward and Sons, of 1, Poultry, from a special competitive design. On the front panel of the casket is the inscription: "Presented, with the freedom of the City, by the Corporation of London, to the Right Hon. the Earl of Shaftesbury, K.G., D.C.L.," and the reverse panel bears a group in repoussee work, representing an open Bible, with the text: "Blessed is he that considereth the poor and needy;" the anchor of hope, and broken fetters indicating freedom from vice and ignorance, together with a lighthouse, behind which the sun of a brighter future is rising. Above the inscription are emblazoned in colours the Shaftesbury arms, with the motto: "Love, Serve." At either end of the casket are figures representing the classes which have most needed his Lordship's labours, while on the top are other figures showing the results of those efforts—the latter being overshadowed by the figure of a guardian angel. The base is composed of ebony and ivory, and is flanked by ivory carvings of the City griffin rampant, which support shields bearing the City arms. The casket is Gothic in design, is made of 18-carat gold, and weighs thirty ounces, forming a very

appropriate and elegant receptacle for the illuminated parchment conveying the freedom of the City to the venerable Earl. Messrs. Geo. Edward and Sons were also successful in their design and manufacture of the gold casket given by the Corporation to Lord Wolseley of Cairo, last year.

In Memoriam.

MRS. JENNINGS.

Mrs. Jennings, the subject of this brief notice, was a woman of singular energy and sincerity of purpose.

Her life was one of unremitting labour. For a period of nearly forty years she was engaged in the difficult task of teaching and training poor ragged children. Her piety and morality had a backbone of principle. These qualities, combined with intelligence and aptitude for teaching, secured excellence of discipline and good educational results, in proof of which the Government parchment which she held for thirty years is covered with annual endorsements.

In Ireland, where she was trained, she conducted schools at Cork and Dublin.

On returning to England she came to St. Paul's, Bermondsey, and was for a time mistress of a school under the Rev. J. Cadman. We find her afterwards at Lower Park Road for six years, where she toiled under the vigilant supervision of the Rev. R. Oscar Thorpe, and finally at George Yard, Whitechapel, the institution so widely known in connection with Mr. Holland, where she spent the last seven years of her life. She died as she wished, in harness. She had been ailing, but a serious illness of a week (she was literally worn out) brought a nobly useful life to a peaceful close. On Sunday, the 16th March, 1884, she fell asleep in Jesus, in the sixtieth year of her age. It may be interesting to her friends to know that she was brought to decision for Christ under the preaching of the Rev. W. White, at Fitzroy Chapel.

Notices of Books.

Shaftesbury, his Life and Work. (S. W. Partridge and Co., London.) Price 1s.

This book, by G. Holden Pike, is most timely in its appearance,

coming as it does at the moment when the great City of London is delighting to honour the great philanthropist. It is most natural for the younger generation, and even the less informed of the elder, to ask what are the achievements of this man that entitle him to such distinction. Such a question is here fully answered. It is brimful of particulars of the life and labours of the noble earl. Its size is adapted to the limited leisure of men of business; and those who are the least bookish, if of noble nature, will find sufficient in it to whet the dullest appetite. It is a book that should be in every Sunday and Ragged School library, and might be adopted as a reading-book in Board and other schools for the highest standard.

Christmas Evans, the Preacher of Wild Wales; His Country, His Times, and His Contemporaries. By Paxton Hood. (Hodder and Stoughton, 27, Paternoster Row.)

It is difficult, in these days of circulating libraries, penny newspapers, and cheap and instructive literature, when knowledge runs to and fro, to realise the power of the pulpit amongst an unbookish yet imaginative people. What we find so difficult to do is done for us in these luminous pages. This book, with an eloquence akin to the topics upon which it treats, revivifies the past—shows the mighty preacher with his vast audience; the accents of his thrilling, impassioned speech falling on their delighted ears; you see the people rolling to and fro with feelings wrought up into waves of emotion, and a surrounding of sympathetic mountains is the temple in which they worship.

Its description of scenery, its racy anecdotes, its notices of odd manners and customs and strange superstitions, are sufficient of themselves to make the book intensely interesting. In short, this is a capital book, and deserving of the widest circulation.

Oliver Cromwell. By Paxton Hood. With eight Illustrations. (Hodder and Stoughton.)

Those who have a love of the past, whose imaginations are delighted with the picturesque costume of former days, who like to see a nation all aglow with political passion, to behold the fierceness and fury with which the fundamental topic of the form of government and its relation to liberty was debated, and at length submitted to the arbitrament of the sword, and who would like to learn something of the men who make history, some of whom have bequeathed to us the liberty we now enjoy, will find this book of Mr. Hood's to be most delightful reading. Every intelligent youth should read it, and if possible have a copy of his own. It should be in all school libraries.

RELIGIOUS TRACT SOCIETY'S PUBLICATIONS.

Darcy the Young Acrobat, and Gipsy Jan. (Shilling Books for the Young.)

These are excellent stories, full of pathos and beauty. The situations of pain or pleasure are skilfully delineated with a view to show what consolation and what inspiration religion ministers to the human heart in all conditions of life—to the poor especially. And the tale conveys a truth insensibly and with full force, which it would be impossible so well to convey in any other form.

The Illustrated Handbill. By the Rev. P. B. Power, B.A.

These are words in season, given in the narrative form. The titles are taking, and compel perusal—"A Skylight in a Man's Head;" "Can't Read! Mustn't Read!" "Christ has made a Man of Me;" "What She couldn't get away from!" "He has been at Me." To name them is to recommend them.

Clue of the Maze. By C. H. Spurgeon. (Passmore and Alabaster, Paternoster Buildings, E.C.)

Here is a charming little book in attractive binding, that may be carried in the waistcoat pocket and run through in one or two rides from the suburbs to London. It is a book to comfort and confirm believers, but many an honest sceptic by its perusal may be led to pause in his career of dreary negation. It is a fine spiritual tonic, a bracing air from heavenly hills.

A Friendly Letter Addressed to Young Men. (Jarrold, London and Norwich, and sold at the Boys' Home, 95, Southwark Street, S.E.) Three for 1d.

A pleasant religious talk in an epistolary form, which may win that attention that a tract repels. Others, in all numbering some twenty-six, and addressed to different classes, have been published.

The Chart of Life. (Thames Church Mission.) Price 6d., or on canvas, varnished, 1s.

The latest product of the ingenious "W. C. M." exhibits lessons manifold on the voyage of life, which concern not sailors only, but all sorts and conditions of men. The pictorial and imaginative map illustrates most suggestively the dangers which beset the inevitable journey down the gulf stream of time. We lately heard the chart explained at a gathering of Ragged School teachers, and were much struck with its practical utility and interest both for young and old.

Notices of Meetings.

OXFORD RAGGED SCHOOL.

The annual meeting was held in the Town Hall, Oxford, on Monday, April 28, 1884, Sir Wm. Herschel in the chair. The report was read by the hon. sec., Mr. T. F. Underhill.

Effective speeches were made by the Rev. F. Pilcher, A. M. W. Christopher, F. J. Chavasse, Mr. Pilcher, and Professor Leone Levi, who attended as a deputation from the Ragged School Union at London, and in the course of an able speech said that one of the most interesting problems which perplexed alike the moralist and politician was the one suggested by the word "Ragged," at the head of their bill for that evening meeting. It was well that there were among them those who would go and seek the outcasts of society, and who brought their case before the public eye. They might well wonder, indeed, that in the midst of their wealthy cities, in stately London and classical Oxford, there would be so many waifs and strays worse off than could be found in Paris or Berlin. That there was an enormous amount of wealth in England was beyond question. But, alas! it was concentrated in very few hands, and the mass of the people had little more than was necessary for their bare living, whilst a certain proportion of the population was always at the lowest point of poverty. There were about a million of paupers in the United Kingdom, and if they assumed that for every pauper in the actual receipt of parish relief there were three actually dependent, it would follow that one in every eleven or twelve persons failed to live on his own resources. For the existence of poverty it was, indeed, easy to account. Physical disease and old age disabled many from earning their living. Vice and extravagance and early marriages were the fountain of misery and wretchedness. Economic causes, the law of supply and demand, must and would assert their power and produce inevitable results. Their producers and manufacturers were often charged with starving their operatives, and much indignation had been expressed at the extremely low wages paid in the case of matches, finishing trousers, and the like, but certain articles could not be sold unless at very low prices, and competition among the labourers enabled the masters to maintain the industry, for they did not hear that they made extravagant profits. Much they might wish, that with all these contingencies clearly before them, there were more care and watchfulness, more frugality and foresight among the people. (Hear, hear.) Much they might desire their workpeople would try and save some part of their earnings when they could. But there was no such care to make hay whilst the sun shone, and so when times were bad there was great misery. But from whatever cause it did happen, pauperism or deep poverty existed, and the consequence was a large number of children abandoned and neglected, and brought up in a most destitute condition, for whom

Ragged Schools became necessary. Poor children, the victims often of careless and unnatural parents, or of dire disease and misfortune, or of sheer want, should they be allowed to grow wild and miserable? Look at them. See how emaciated were their faces, how stunted in growth, how dejected in looks. How could they attend Board Schools in rags? How could they attend to their lessons when they were starving? They needed the helping hand of the benevolent before they could take any instruction, and that was the *raison d'être*, the very function of Ragged Schools. They sheltered the poor urchins from the storms of life, they gave them a little vigour, they imparted to them fresh hope, and, depend upon it, where there was no hope there could be no endeavour, no effort. (Hear, hear.) The Ragged School teacher made the poor children feel that after all there was somebody who cared for them. And this was the very first step to a new life. But if mercy for the children did not move them, let consideration of public safety be present in their mind. These children, abandoned and outcast, grew into men and women with a fully developed propensity for vice and crime. They became the criminal classes. Educate them, and they would become virtuous, useful members of society. Abandon them, and they would grow into thieves and vagrants, to fill their prisons and workhouses. (Applause.) They complained of their local taxation, but the worst possible taxes were those required for the support of criminals. That expenditure was out and out unproductive. The question had been suggested: Why were Ragged Schools not supported by rates, the same as Board Schools? But the reason was patent. A religious education was necessary, especially in the case of ragged children, because their hearts were likely to become obdurate by bad treatment. To educate the mind was not sufficient in their case, as in the case of any child. They must educate the heart. Nay, they must do more. They must, if need be, give food and raiment, and all this could not be provided for by rates. Ragged Schools must be supported by benevolence, must rest on love and charity. To teach a ragged child, to take him or her by the hand, was an act done to God, a religious as well as a social duty. (Applause.)

GEORGE YARD, WHITECHAPEL.

The thirtieth annual meeting of the George Yard Ragged Schools, Church, Shelter for Outcast Boys, Infant Nursery, and other organisations, was held at the schoolroom in George Yard on Monday evening, April 28th. Lord Shaftesbury again presided, and among those present during the evening were Lady Edith Ashley, Count Bokinskey, and Sir R. Beauchamp.

The Rev. G. Davenport having offered prayer, Mr. G. Holland, the secretary, read the annual report of his multifarious labours.

The Rev. R. Reakes moved a resolution expressing gratitude to God for the great work done at George Yard, which was seconded by the Rev. F. W. Briggs, supported by Mr. R. J. Curtis, of the Ragged School Union, and adopted.

Mr. T. Woodley, C.C., on behalf of the committee and teachers, then presented an address to the Chair-

man on his attaining that day—his eighty-third birthday. Mr. Burrett, on behalf of the Working Men's Club and Labour Loan Society, presented another address, signed by Mr. James Smith, secretary. This was not all, for three lads next mounted the platform, and one, with admirable self-possession, read an address to the chairman from the lads of the schools, who desired his acceptance of a small rug, made by them on the premises. His lordship patted the boys on the head, and shook hands with them all, greatly to their delight.

Mr. T. A. Denny followed by proposing a vote of thanks to the Chairman in a very characteristic speech, which was seconded by Mr. Woodley.

Lord Shaftesbury, in acknowledging the addresses, made one of his heartiest speeches, full of affection and playful humour.

OGLE MEWS RAGGED SCHOOL.

The annual meeting of this well-known and most flourishing institution, so long associated with the name of Sir Robert Carden, was held on Thursday evening, May 21, in the handsome room recently erected, constituting the top storey of the building. The Lord Mayor presided.

The report read gave an animated account of the various operations, comprising Sunday Schools, Day Schools, Mothers' Meeting, Crèche, Youths' Institute, Penny Bank, &c.

The Lord Mayor (R. N. Fowler, Esq.), commenting on the report, said it was most evident that the various agencies, more or less of a religious character, were making many a desert spot to blossom as the rose. It was an institution deserving the widest publicity and the most generous support.

Able speeches followed by Sheriff Cowan, Sheriff Smith, Colonel Puget, E. Clifford, Esq., Rev. P. Bevan, and Rev. W. R. Mowll. The most telling speech of the evening was by Sir Robert, who in a humorous way preferred a personal request, to be endorsed by the meeting, that he should fill up a cheque for the amount the institution was in debt. This was accordingly done.

MAIDA HILL INDUSTRIAL AND RAGGED SCHOOLS.

The annual meeting in connection with the Industrial and Ragged Schools and Home for Working Boys, North Street, Maida Hill, was held recently in the Infant School Room, Richmond Street, Edgware Road. The chair was occupied by Sir James R. Walker, Bart. He was most ably supported on the occasion by the Rev. J. Gosset Tanner, M.A., Rev. G. Martin Claris, General Lowry, C.B., George Hanbury, Esq., C. C. Birch, Esq., John Fair, Esq., and E. Tildesley, Esq. G. H. Fryer, Esq., read the report. It gave a very satisfactory account of the operations of the institution, and urged upon the friends of the work the necessity of increased support, as well as for a special effort to clear off a debt of £240. Practical and interesting addresses were given, details and encouraging letters from former inmates were read by Mr. Amor, after which a cordial vote of thanks was given to the Chairman.

LEICESTER RAGGED SCHOOL MISSION.

The annual meeting of the friends and supporters of this mission was

held a short time since in the chapel in George Street, under the presidency of Alderman Chambers. There were also on the platform Messrs. W. Harris, T. H. Lloyd, J. Kirk (Secretary of the Ragged School Union), and others. Mr. J. C. Lawrence, the treasurer, read the balance-sheet. The hon. secretary (Mr. H. Lawrence) then read the report, which stated that the attendance had increased so largely during the past year that they were again threatened with a lack of room. Owing to the increase of the Sunday School the committee found it absolutely necessary to make regular use of the old George Street chapel. They had, however, determined not to spend money in repairing the present structure, but to recommend the trustees to rebuild it in a manner more adapted to their requirements. The plan proposed would cost about £700. About £200 had already been given or promised, and they hoped to make arrangements for holding a sale of work early in 1885. It must be borne in mind that the committee had a debt at present existing of over £1,000, and in face of that it was of deep importance that the £700 for rebuilding should be realised at once. The report gave details of the work done under the auspices of the mission, showing that in all 509 meetings, representing a total of 46,552 attendances, had been held during the year, in addition to 13 open-air services, and meetings in connection with the Young Men's Christian Association, library, and other auxiliaries. The number on the roll of the Sunday School had increased from 366 to 600 during last year, and the average afternoon attendance rose from 264 to 415. The teaching staff at present was 35, but many more were required. A Men's Bible Class was held on Sunday mornings and afternoons, and six other class-rooms were well filled with senior scholars. Gospel Services for the People, Revival Services, Wednesday Evening Services, Visiting the Sick, systematic Tract Distribution, Lodging-house work, Soup Kitchen and Benevolent Fund, Temperance work, Penny Savings Bank, the Library, Flower Mission, Mothers' Meetings, Girls' Working Classes, and a Young Men's Association, were also developed departments of the work.—*Westcotes Branch:* This branch had also made considerable progress during the year. The Sunday School had increased from 113 to 163 on the books, and the average attendance on Sunday afternoons from 84 to 119. Auxiliary institutions were attached to this branch, and in all 211 meetings were held, the attendances numbering 13,302. The Chairman said that when he told them it was forty years since he began Sunday School and Ragged School work they would understand that he was in perfect sympathy with all of them. Amid the varied agencies in operation at the present time to diffuse the great and glorious principles of their common Christianity, there was none which, in his judgment, outweighed in value and importance the Sunday and Ragged School. The speakers were Messrs. J. Kirk, Lloyd, Latchmore, and others.

RAGGED CHURCH AND CHAPEL UNION.

The thirty-first annual meeting of the Ragged Church and Chapel Union was held in the lower room of

Exeter Hall, on May 28th. The chair was taken by Major J. Smith. —The report was read by the Rev. J. S. Cassin. The number of preaching stations are 106, situated in the most needy places of outcast London. The finance account showed the income from April, 1883, to April, 1884, to be £409, loan £100, since which a legacy had been left by Miss Barkwith of £300, making a total of £809. The expenditure, including repayment of loan, amounted to £694, leaving a balance of £115 in hand. The Chairman said it was not necessary to say anything to those present, who had heard the report read, as to the great good of such a work as that done by the Ragged Church and Chapel Union, but it was necessary for those outside to know that there was such work being done with unpaid agency, and that places were provided that no poor man or woman, because of their condition of poverty, need be afraid to enter. The Rev. J. Simpson said the poor would listen and welcome laymen who left their shops or their bench to preach to them, and believe in them much more than in the regular clergy. The other speakers were Revs. Bevill Allen, W. Firth, and W. Tyler; Mr. G. Tomkins and Mr. J. Kirk.

FOX COURT RAGGED SCHOOLS, GRAY'S INN ROAD, HOLBORN.

The Benchers of the Honourable Society of Gray's Inn for the twenty-first time lent their ancient and beautiful Hall for the purposes of the Parents' Annual Festival on March 24th, when about 350 fathers and mothers sat down to tea. The tables having been cleared, the chair was taken by the president of the schools, the Right Hon. the Earl of Shaftesbury, and after prayer by the Rev. J. H. Moran, a most entertaining programme was carried out, consisting of addresses by the noble Earl, Sir Robt. Carden, Sir William Wheelhouse, the Revs. William, Nelson Winn, H. W. Dearden, and C. A. Keightley, interspersed by merry peals (by the Holdfast Hand Bell Ringers), music (vocal and instrumental) by Mrs. Melvill Beachcroft, Mrs. E. Vaughan Thompson, and H. Hope Shakespear, Esq.

The hon. secretary, Mr. Thos. Fagg, said that upon the last occasion a cloud overshadowed the meeting from the fact that the committee were under notice by the Metropolitan Board of Works that the school premises would shortly be required for demolition; and at that time there appeared no prospect of a new home in which to continue the various agencies which had been at work in their interest for so many years. He had now, however, to congratulate the parents as well as the school friends, that in God's good providence the cloud has rolled away, friends had been raised up, a site had been secured in the same court, and proved to be the very house in a single room of which the schools were first started in the year 1846. A subscription list had been opened, headed by a donation of £100 from a friend on the platform, and subsequent donations and promises (including £50 promised by Sir Robert Carden) had brought the amount up to £400. The Earl of Shaftesbury heartily congratulated all present upon the success which had attended the efforts that had been made

petuate so good a work. At the conclusion of the meeting the secretary had the pleasure to announce that Sir Robert Carden had doubled his promised donation, making it £100 instead of £50.

THE RADNOR STREET (ST. LUKE'S) WESLEYAN SUNDAY EVENING RAGGED SCHOOL AND MISSION.

The annual tea and entertainment of these schools deserves special notice, it being the first of the kind in the new building. The occasion had one drawback in the indisposition of J. W. Gabriel, Esq., who has been connected with the schools for more than half a century. About 1,000 children were present on this joyous occasion. After a sumptuous tea the children were entertained with the innocent drolleries of Punch and Judy. At the close of this performance the little children were sent home, and their places were occupied by older scholars, who were entertained with a first-rate performance by a band and choir of some seventy performers belonging to the Hackney Juvenile Mission, under the leadership of W. J. Newman, its honorary superintendent.

DOVE ROW SUNDAY AND RAGGED SCHOOLS,

In Connection with Cambridge Heath Congregational Church.

The annual distribution of prizes took place recently in the Marley Hall, Triangle, Hackney, the Rev. William Marshall, President, in the chair. Messrs. R. J. Curtis (Ragged School Union) and Dunkerton addressed the scholars, to 63 of whom prizes were distributed. During the evening the Drum and Fife Band played several pieces, and a choir of girls sang several hymns. Some weeks afterwards the Annual Parents' Tea and Social Meeting was held in the schoolroom, Dove Row. The room was crowded. At the meeting the Rev. Wm. Marshall presided. Short speeches were given by the Chairman, the Rev. E. J. Evans, and Messrs. Brewer and Cotsford. Singing and recitations varied the enjoyment of the evening.

YOUTHS' INSTITUTE, OLD PYE STREET, WESTMINSTER.

The tenth annual entertainment by the members of this institute came off very successfully some short time since. The entertainment was mainly given by the members. Admirable singing, consisting of solos and duets; admirable playing on the flute and violin; a performance by the Drum and Fife Band, and an admirable reading of "Dan Dabberton's Dream" (a temperance tale), by the Rev. Dr. Sinclair Paterson, made a most enjoyable evening. Mr. J. Payne presided.

SERMON LANE MISSION.

The annual meeting of this well-known mission was held on the evening of Tuesday, March 25, at Myddelton Hall, Islington. The chair was taken by Mr. Joseph Surr.

The report was read by Mr. Cooksey, the secretary, which, as usual, was full of the most interesting details. The meeting was addressed by Revs. Gordon Chalrop, W. M. Statham, A. Rowland, Mr. Hill, and by Messrs. Malcolm, W. Haig Miller, Gawin Kirkham, and others.

CASTLE LANE YOUTHS' INSTITUTE.

The gathering on the 29th April was the closing meeting of this

season, and the occasion for the annual presentation of prizes by the Rev. H. Simon. Before the prizes were distributed a few songs and recitations were given by the members. The opening of the programme was a glee, followed by "Hail, smiling morn!" and a recitation by J. Chandler, entitled "Ticket-of-Leave." Mr. J. Hammill also gave two recitations, "Over the hills to the Poor House" and "The Road to Heaven."

The Rev. H. Simon, Mr. Curtis (the Organising Secretary of the Ragged School Union), and others addressed the meeting. The report was then read, which stated that the number of those who have joined the institute during the past session is 103, with an average number of paying members varying between 30 and 40, whilst the average attendance on each evening was from 20 to 25. With regard to its financial position, the committee are glad to state that the expenditure this session has been £20 less than that of last year, viz., £90 instead of £110; towards that they have already received about £70.

The prizes were then distributed.

CHILDREN'S GOSPEL MISSION, PLUMBER'S PLACE, ROSOMAN STREET, CLERKENWELL.

On Monday, May 17th, was held the annual gathering of scholars and friends of this mission. Mr. J. Kirk, of the Ragged School Union, and others took part in the proceedings.

A report was read. One of its most pleasant features was the resolve to undertake more work. The largest contribution to the funds had been the £5 from the Ragged School Union.

SHOEBLACKS' HOME, 241, MARYLEBONE ROAD, N.W.

On Thursday evening, 17th of April, the annual tea and entertainment given to the boys of the above "Home" by the Rev. Bentick F. Doyle, M.A., took place. After tea the chair was taken by C. C. Birch, Esq., who gave the prizes to those boys who had won them by their attention and industry at the evening school, and by passing the Government examination successfully. The prizes consisted of hats, collars, shirts, boots, neckties, and handkerchiefs chosen by the boys. Professor Hamilton Stodare, conjuror and ventriloquist, gave a clever and interesting entertainment.

WEST GREENWICH RAGGED SCHOOL.

On Saturday afternoon, 26th April, by permission of Mr. and Mrs. Alex. Young, Aberdeen Terrace, Blackheath, a meeting in connection with the West Greenwich Ragged School and Working Lads' Institute was held at their residence, the Hon. Arthur F. Kinnaird presiding, supported by the Revs. J. C. Leeke, C. Wilson, and G. Elder, Dr. Wilson, Messrs. H. R. Williams, H. C. Pierson, and R. J. Curtis, of the Ragged School Union, the meeting being largely attended. Mr. Charles McClure gave a report of the work of the school and institute, which was of a very satisfactory character. The subscriptions for the year had been £102 4s., and the expenses £205 8s., and although the deficit had been nearly met by friends giving special contributions, there remained at the close of the year a debt of £21 10s. Mr. H. R. Williams made an able speech on the importance of Ragged Schools

as a great social and religious agency. All the speakers advocated further support to the work, and a hope was expressed that a new building would soon be erected, in order that it might be carried on with greater efficiency, towards which some £400 has been promised.

HATFIELD STREET RAGGED SCHOOL AND MISSION.

Mr. M'Cullagh Torrens, M.P., presided at the annual public meeting. A satisfactory account was given in the report, read by Mr. G. A. Robottom, hon. secretary, of the various agencies of the institution.

The Chairman said he was asked at the Royal Commission on the Housing of the Poor to account for the fact, that while there was plenty of accommodation vacant, yet people would huddle together in a way bad for body and soul, for young and old, and in this, if in nothing else, that it destroyed all sense of proper seclusion and separation between the ages and sexes, and enforced the inhaling of foul air, mocking the human system without sustaining the life which God's own fresh air was intended to bestow. He had considered it for some years, and had tried to get Parliament to pass Acts, some of which were useful; but he honestly owned, without looking back over the whole vista of experience, that he would not say one was disheartened, one had no need to be that, *but one's sanguineness was reduced in its warmth as to the possibility of what could be done by mere Act of Parliament. He had less faith in it now than he had.*

Addresses were delivered by the Rev. T. Perry, the Rev. Burman Cassin, Mr. John Kirk, Mr. John Berry, Mr. Hilton, Mr. Drayton, and others.

HOLLOWAY RAGGED SCHOOLS AND INFANT NURSERY.

The annual meeting of this society was held on Monday evening, April 28th, in the Mission Hall, Hornsey Road, when the chair was taken by the Rev. F. A. C. Lillingston, M.A., vicar of St. Barnabas. In opening the meeting, he referred more particularly to the important question of providing Infant Nurseries, such as the Crèche of this society, for the poor.

Mr. W. M. Blyth, the hon. sec., read the report, which stated that two new departures had been made —viz., the establishment of a club for boys, and another for girls. An effort is also being made to impart to the girls some knowledge of cooking, and to influence them to go into domestic service.

Mr. W. J. Jecks, the hon. treasurer, then submitted the balance-sheet, which shows a credit balance of £8 13s. 2d.

The first formal resolution was moved by Rev. W. S. Lewis, M.A., and seconded by Mr. Haig Miller in an eloquent and earnest speech, bearing upon the lives of the children of the poor in London, the children of ragged homes, who seem to multiply to an alarming extent, and pass what appear to us such fruitless years. In a stirring address to the teachers he impressed upon them that the present alone is theirs, the seed time of the eternal world, and urged them to use it well, with earnestness and enthusiasm.

Excursion Fund.—Continued

	£	s.	d.
...wen, Mrs.	0	2	6
...lmer, Geo., Esq., M.P.	1	1	0
...rker, C. S., Esq., M.P.	1	1	0
Parker, Miss	0	5	0
Pattison, Miss	0	10	0
Payne, Chas., Esq.	0	5	0
Pelly, Rev. Raymond	2	0	0
Phelps, Rev. W. W.	1	0	0
Pilcher, Miss	2	2	0
Pill, Miss	2	2	0
Pitman, Wy., Esq.	0	10	0
Pitt, Mrs. F.	0	5	0
Plant, G. T., Esq.	0	5	0
Platt, Mrs. Owen	0	5	0
Poole, Miss E.	1	0	0
Poppleville, Miss	0	5	0
Port, Mrs.	0	5	0
Porter, Robt., Esq.	1	0	0
Prinsix, Miss	0	2	6
Price, Mrs. Admiral	0	10	0
Procter, John, Esq.	5	0	0
Prout, Miss J. A.	0	2	6
Protheroe, Mrs. C.	0	2	6
Protestant, A	1	0	0
Quincey, Miss	1	0	0
Roberts, Right Hon. Lord	2	2	0
Raggatt, William, Esq.	0	10	0
Ramsey, Mrs.	0	5	0
Ransted, O., Esq.	0	5	0
Rattenbury, Mrs.	0	10	0
Read, Miss C.	0	1	0
Reeves, Mrs.	1	1	0
Rewlence, Mrs.	0	5	0
Richardson, W., Esq.	0	10	0
Riddell, Miss	1	10	0
Rider, Mrs.	0	10	0
Riley, John, Esq.	5	0	0
Roberts, J., Esq.	0	5	0
Roberts, W. Arthur, Esq.	0	2	6
Robertson, W. C., Esq.	2	5	0
Robinson, George, Esq.	1	0	0
Robinson, Miss Jane, and Friends	0	7	6
Robinson, Miss Marianne	0	2	0
Roby, Miss	0	5	0
Rosling, A., Esq.	1	0	0
Rous, Miss	2	0	0
Routh, Dr.	0	5	0
Roxburgh, Colonel	0	10	0
Shakerley, Dowager Lady	2	0	0
Smith, Samuel, Esq., M.P.	5	5	0
Salt, Messrs. & Co.	2	0	0
St. John, Captain O. R.	5	0	0
Scorer, A., Esq.	0	5	0
Scott, Rev. M. R.	1	0	0
Scott, Miss	0	2	0
Scott, S., Esq.	10	0	0
Seager, Miss	5	0	0
Sherrard, Captain C. W. R. E.	0	10	0
Silver, Miss	0	10	0
Smith, General, C.B.	0	10	0
Smith, Mrs.	0	2	0
Smith, Miss	0	2	0
Smithers, H. W., Esq.	5	0	0
Soames, Captain	1	0	0
Souter, Miss	0	10	0
Spawforth, J., Esq.	5	0	0
Stafford, W., Esq.	0	5	0
Stewart, Mrs. R., and Miss Cosens	1	5	0
Sturge, George, Esq.	2	0	0
Symons, W., Esq.	2	2	0
Tate, J. P., Esq.	2	2	0
Tate, Miss H. M.	0	10	0
Todd, Miss, Hannah	1	0	0
Tomkins, Miss	0	2	0
Trendell, Mrs.	0	10	0
Trotter, Mrs. H. D.	1	0	0
Tyndale, W. H., Esq.	1	1	0
Two Friends	0	5	0
Underhill, Mrs.	1	0	0
Wilson, Lady	1	0	0
Walker, Miss	0	5	0
Waller, Mrs.	0	5	0
Wark, Mrs.	2	2	0
Warren, Mrs.	0	5	0
Watts, Mrs.	0	5	0
Wedgwood, H., Esq.	0	10	0
Wedgwood, Miss F.	0	2	6
Welby, W., E., Esq.	1	0	0
West, Miss Rose	0	5	0
Westrop, H., W., Esq.	0	2	6
Wheeler, Mrs.	0	10	0
Wheeler, Mrs. E.	0	10	0
Whytt, P., F., Esq.	0	10	0
Whightman, Mrs.	0	5	0
Wigram, Rev. F. E.	1	0	0
Wilcox, Misses	0	5	0
Wilkie, Miss	2	0	0
Williams, Miss	0	2	6
Williams, Mrs.	0	2	6
Williams, Rev. W.	0	2	6
Woodfall, Henry, Esq.	0	10	0
Woodfall, S., P., Esq.	0	10	0
Woodhouse, Mrs.	0	10	0
Woodford, Miss F.	0	2	6
Worsley, R., Esq.	0	2	6
Wray, Miss	0	5	0
Wright, Henry, Esq.	1	0	0
Wyld, Miss	0	5	0
Wyse, M. S.	0	10	0
Yonge, Mrs.	0	2	6
Young, R., Esq.	0	1	0

Special Fund.

Bresser's Court.

Miss Riddell	2	2	0

Children's Dinners.

Miss Wilkie	2	0	0

Disabled Veteran.

Mrs. E. Carpmael	0	5	0
Mr. F. Carter	0	2	0
Mrs. Gavey	0	2	6
Mr. W. J. Mackay	0	2	6
Mrs. N.	0	15	0
Miss Tapsell	0	5	0
A Friend	0	1	0
Reader of *Christian Herald*	0	1	0
Sympathy	0	2	6
W. S. B.	0	5	0

King Edward.

J. C. Sheeran, Esq., J.P.	0	10	0

Lambeth.

J. W. A., per G. Kirkham, Esq.	2	0	0

Saffron Hill.

Miss Riddell	2	2	6

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Mrs. Carpmael	2	2	0
Miss Carpmael	1	1	0
Alfred Carpmael, Esq.	1	1	0
Ernest Carpmael, Esq.	1	1	0
M. Churchill, Esq.	1	0	0

Weary Workers.

Miss M. Gibbins	10	0	0
W. Vawdry Lusk, Esq., M.D.	0	10	6
Miss Paget	1	10	0
Miss Riddell	2	2	0
Misses Sherson	0	12	0
C. M. S.	0	10	0

Worn-Out Teachers.

Miss M. Gibbins	10	0	0

Shaftesbury Fund.

Adams, Wm., Esq.	5	0	0
A Friend	5	5	0
Bailey — Esq.	2	0	0
Bedkin, Miss	5	0	0
Braden, Chas., Esq.	5	5	0
Bull, Henry, Esq.	2	2	0
Cole, Colonel	5	0	0
Collection at Mansion House Meeting	14	8	7
Collman, J. S., Esq.	5	0	0
Cotter, R. E., Esq.	2	0	0
Dawson, John, Esq.	5	5	0
Farre, Dr. A.	2	2	0
G. H.	25	0	0
Harris, Mrs. J. Watson	1	0	0
Hodgson, S. H., Esq.	5	0	0
J. L. W.	5	5	0
McGarel, Mrs.	1	0	0
Milsum, T. A., Esq.	1	0	0
Palmer, Geo., Esq., M.P.	5	5	0
Perkins, F. C., Esq.	0	15	0
Ridley, W. H., Esq.	0	10	0
Ward, Howard C., Esq.	1	1	0

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